

Should You Change Who You Are to Fit In?

Speaker: Sister Jennifer Thomas

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1

OUTLINE

We usually start the day out with good intentions. But somewhere along the way we get a message that we don't dress right, look right, think fast enough, and so on. The messages come from everywhere – the poster in the hallway, the song on the radio, the person sitting next to you, and on television. And you start to say to yourself, "I've got to change my clothes, my attitude, my vocabulary, and my choices if I'm going to be someone."

I. Living Sacrifice

The term "living sacrifice" is more easily understood when you realize that this gift is alive – it is the surrender of our inner being to God, resulting in a godly lifestyle.

II. Not Conformed

Romans 12:2 tells us, "Do not be conformed...but be transformed." Conformed means to **go along with the crowd, to become whatever the color or attitude is of the crowd around you.**

III. Transformation

Transformed speaks to change by leaving behind one set of influences and choosing another instead.

IV. Preparing to be a Living Sacrifice

If you want a life that you can present to God, you need to start preparing to be a living sacrifice.

A. Uninvited Messages

Learn to prepare for what's ahead. In order to prepare for what's ahead, decide in advance to not allow uninvited messages to take control of your brain.

When you allow the destructive messages of the world to infect your mind, your **PEACE** is replaced by the following:

Pressure

Escape

Availability

Curiosity

Emptiness

V. Living a Godly Life

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO ALTER YOUR IMAGE,
EVEN IF EVERYONE ELSE YOU KNOW DOES.
YOU CAN PRESENT YOUR BODY TO GOD,
PROGRAM YOUR MIND TOWARD GODLINESS,
AND AS A RESULT, PROVE WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.**

VI. Living How God Wants Me to Live

- A. How I Should Dress?**
- B. How I Should Talk?**
- C. What I Should Listen To?**
- D. Should I Obey My Parents?**
- E. Maintaining the Right Attitude**
- F. Who Should My Friends Be?**

VII. Feeling Good About Myself

- A. What Is Self-esteem?**
- B. How Do You Feel About Yourself?**
- C. How Can My Self-esteem Be Improved?**