

## **THE TWO CONFORMITIES**

**Rom 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed* to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Act 17:6** And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

### **THIS IS THE AGE OF CONFORMITY**

1. We live in an age of conformity for many reasons.
2. Example: Fashions are mass-produced and merchandise at the same time all across the county. (So all dress alike).
3. Our foods are advertised on billboards, in newspapers, and magazines, on the radio and television commercials, Internet and then what you see in the supermarkets is basically the same across the country.
4. What we wear and what we eat, the cars we drive, and the houses we live in show how much we like to be the same as the next person.
5. The Media, the video games, and the world's music that everyone is tuned into with its demonic beats that comes from the very pits of hell. If the devil can get you to stick an ipod in your ear and so he can pipe that garbage into your head long enough it will start changing your behavior and make you a hater of God.
6. Few people are willing to stick out like a sore thumb from the rest of society.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN?**

1. The world at large becomes more open to pornography?
2. Homosexual lifestyles are no longer looked down on?

3. What happens when all of a sudden, everybody is doing it?
4. When Marijuana is legalized, and not longer looked down upon?
5. When woman dressing so provocative and lustful and it becomes the norm?
6. When Boys and girls are pressured to fit in with the language and all the body piercing and tattoos of this world?

### **AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST HOLD OUR GROUND AND STAND FIRM ON OUR CHRISTIAN CONVICTIONS**

1. **All Christians face a constant battle against conformity to the world's constant pressure to conform.**
2. **Paul wrote that we wrestle not against flesh and blood.** But against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand.**

**Eph 6:14 Stand therefore,** having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall **be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

1. **We need some Daniels today that purpose in their Heart.**

**Dan 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

2. At some point in the life of the Christian, he will have to stand out, and perhaps be ridiculed for it.

**THE TWELVETH CHAPTER OF ROMANS**

1. **Paul gives us the fundamentals of standing against the tide of worldliness, and the ways to resist conformity to the world.**

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

**MERCIES OF GOD**

2. **Be a living Sacrifice:** Paul's appeal is based on "the mercies of God"

- a. We need to look back at all God has done for us
- b. The focus of God's mercy is the cross of Calvary.
- c. On the basis of God's mercy demonstrated through the sacrifice of our Lord and saviour on the cross.
- d. Now because of His great love and sacrifice we in turn become a sacrifice.
- e. **Because of His mercy,** He has empowered us to war against conformity with a willingness to have myself – my desires to conform to this world – put to death.
- f. **The Conformity of this world involves sensual pleasures of one kind or another.**

**Gal 5:24** And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also **should walk in newness of life.**

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection:

**Rom 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Rom 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

**Gal 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- g. When you present yourselves a living sacrifice, the desires of the flesh, and fleshly fulfillments become subdued and subjected to Calvary's cross.

### **BE TRANSFORMED:**

**The World wants to conform us and then they want to try to reform us, but God wants to transform us.**

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1. **This is brought about by a renewed mind:** We become a new creature in Christ.
2. **“Old Things have passed away”** The former values and concepts have passed away.
3. **“All things become New”** when we are re-created in the image of God

## THE NEW CONFORMITY

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

**Eze 36:27** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

1. We must look the world in the eye and reflect a new conformity.
2. A sacrifice does not worry about conformity.

**Rom 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed* to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Gal 4:19** My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

3. The first travail puts is in the church the second travail keeps us in the church.

**1Jn 3:1** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

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2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

**2Co 3:18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**2Co 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.