

## **STOP BEING CONFORMED**

*The first step in successfully presenting your body as a living sacrifice unto God is to stop presenting it to the lust of the flesh which is fueled by the evil age in which you are living.*

***Romans 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.***

### **Introduction**

Believers live on this earth in a body that still has a desire to do the evil deeds of the flesh. In Christ we have the purpose and the power to say no to these evil desires; and that is a must if we are going to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices. We must stop allowing the evil influences around us to pressure us to yield our bodies to do the evil deeds of the flesh.

### **The Outside Doesn't Match the Inside**

*Conformed* is from G4964 and means to exhibit one's self as something contrary from his or her true inner self, being patterned after some definite thing.

### **Satan and his Ministers as Examples**

This is seen as being practiced by false apostles and Satan himself.

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Satan and his ministers although evil and sinful on the inside can pattern their outside to appear righteous and godly on the outside.

### **Believers are Not to Practice Conforming to The World**

In the text, we as believers are told to stop patterning our outside to something that isn't a true reflection of our inside. In this case, we are not to be patterned after the world or age.

### **The Age is The Lifestyle and Morals of The World System**

*The word "world" is aiōn, which Trench defines as follows: "All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, but which constitute a most real and effective power, being the moral, or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of*

*our lives we inhale, again inevitably to exhale, - all this is included in the aiōn (age), which is, as Bengel has expressed it, the subtle informing spirit of the Kosmos or world of men who are living alienated and apart from God." The Germans have a word for it, the Zeitgeist or spirit of the age. This masquerade costume which saints sometimes put on, hides the Lord Jesus living in the heart of the Christian, and is an opaque covering through which the Holy Spirit cannot radiate the beauty of the Lord Jesus. The world says to that kind of a saint, "The modernism of your appearance nullifies the fundamentalism of your doctrine." (Wuest Word Studies).*

### **Believers Must Be Non-Conformist**

*Conformed* is seen in the middle or passive voice in the Greek, indicating that this is something that we do to ourselves or is done to us. Just living in this sinful world is influence on us. It will pressure us to conform to its mold. The more that we actively participate in it or are exposed to it, the greater the pressure and the more we conform. We are to continually be practicing non-conformity to this world system, because it goes against our true inward nature.

### **Not Rebellious**

This non-conformity isn't to have a rebellious attitude towards everything in the world. The Bible teaches us to submit to those on earth whom God has placed in authority over us, to pray for them, and to be at peace with them as much as possible (1 Peter 2:13-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Romans 12:18).

### **But Resistant**

However, it is a resistance to live apart from their way of life. As believers we are to have a biblical mindset, not a worldly one.

### **Lot is an Example of a Believer Conforming to the Age**

Lot, living in Sodom is an example of this. Abraham's nephew Lot separated from Abraham and pitched his tent in the city, towards Sodom (Genesis 13:10-13). Abraham pitched his tent in Mamre (*the place of strength*) which was in Hebron (*association*) and built an altar to the Lord (Genesis 13:18). So, Abraham continued to associate with and worship his source of strength, the Lord; while Lot became more conformed to the ways of the world. Even to the point of becoming a leader in Sodom (Genesis 19:1).

### **The Outward Pressure to Conform Wore Lot Down Inwardly**

Lot was a righteous man living among the unrighteous, and the pressure from without to conform to this unrighteous way of life was wearing him down (Genesis 19:1-26).

*2 Peter 2:7-8 (KJV) And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: [8] (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

Vexed in 2 Peter 2:7 means *to wear with toil*, figuratively to *harass*. In verse 8 *vexed* is from a word meaning *to torture*. As Lot lived among the unrighteous his righteous soul was worn down, harassed, and tortured because he was pressured to conform outwardly to something he wasn't inwardly.

### **Conformity Cost Lot Dearly**

When Sodom was destroyed Lot ended up in Zoar which means *insignificant* or *little*. God had saved Lot's soul, but Lot had little to show for it.

### **The Corinthian Church Is an Example of Believers Conforming to The Age**

The Corinthian church had been influenced by the worldliness and evil that filled the city in which they lived. They were saved and had the Spirit of God on the inside.

*1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

Yet they did not live transformed lives from the inside out. They lived according to influence of the world around them, submitting their bodies to the lust of the flesh. They were conformed to the age.

*1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

### **Modern Day Pressure to Conform to The Age**

- The company you keep.
- The things in which you are involved.
- The things you see and hear.

### **Conclusion**

Take a serious look at your life. Start setting aside and getting away from the things that encourage your body to yield to the lust of the flesh and replace them with things that turn your attention to God.

*The first step in successfully presenting your body as a living sacrifice unto God is to stop presenting it to the lust of the flesh which is fueled by the evil age in which you are living.*