

Evening Worship / April 30, 2023

“No Conformity, Think, Think, Think!” Romans 12:2-3

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:2–3 (NKJV)

I. *Do not be conformed to this world –*

² And do not be conformed to this world, ... Romans 12:2

1. *Realize this is our ungodly world’s aim and goal, our conformity to their immoral and ungodly beliefs and ways –*

³ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, ... Daniel 3:1 A (NKJV)

A. *When the music plays, you bow (CONFORMITY) -*

⁵ *that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;*

B. *If you refused to bow (non-conformity) you’ll DIE, a hot painful, death -*

⁶ *and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” Daniel 3:5–6 (NKJV)*

2. *We have similar things happening in our world today –*

Back in the early 1980s a woman name Rosemary Radford Reuther a radical feminist theologian wrote a Book called “Sexism and God-Talk”

In the Book she speaks of Biblical, Christian themes like the Bible, God, Jesus, Christ, Man, Woman, God’s image ... She also speaks of inspiration and truth –

In order to understand her you have to understand one early statement she makes –

Ms. Reuther in that Book says about the Bible -

“Scripture and tradition are themselves codified collective human experience.”

When Ms. Reuther uses the term “human” to describe the Bible, if you read her in her context, she is the Bible is man-made, really in EVERY SENSE so that even the God of the Bible Who is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, all-wise, all-powerful is MANMADE!

An image, created by men to subjugate women! An image used and abuse, much like Nebuchadnezzar’s idol!

She did not completely fight this, but she communicates we need to CORRECT this image and she basically said MOTHER EARTH needs to replace our Father in Heaven and eco-feminism is something she wrote many books about ...

Bottom Line Global Warming / climate change is a religion, not science, in fact even "science" to them is not what can be proved under a micro-scope any more but whatever might accomplish a powerful group's agenda –

3. *The Bible says –*

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)

- A. *We are created in God's image in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, we are created in God's image: male and female ...*
- B. *This is opposed by evolution that says, no we evolved from ape like creatures*
- C. *This is opposed by transgenderism which agrees with evolution we were not created by any God, because God does not exist and therefore, we are not "male or female" by design, in fact not even human by design, we can CREATE our own IMAGE, we are our own gods and goddesses. This is being taught in schools while the Bible is condemned and Christianity is rebranded "patriarchy"*
- D. *The Bible says we are to have "dominion" Genesis 1:26 over the other creatures and fill the earth and subdue it Genesis 1:28 –*
- E. *The Global Warming / Climate Change / Worship Mother Earth religion was made up to contradict this ... they do not even like the idea of farming*

The movie Avatar is their modern bible. Blue human-like creatures live in the jungle, no need of bathrooms, no need of insect repellent ... the ENEMY in that movie is the Sky-God, Who is God the Father in the Bible ... How do we fight such ideas? do not be conformed to this world!

II. *Be transformed, by the renewing of your mind -*

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 B (NKJV)

- 1. *Our denominations two most popular ministers both took names for their respective ministries from Romans 12:2: James Kennedy named his ministry "Truths that Transform" R. C. Sproul named his ministry "Renewing Your Mind" ...*
- 2. *The Bible is God's Word and does have power to transform us and renew our minds, and not only our minds but our entire lives, see how Psalm 1 says basically the same thing as Romans 12:2 –*

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:1–6 (NKJV)

- A. *According to Psalm 1, God wants us to be “blessed” which means truly and eternally happy.*
- B. *We will NOT be blessed by following the counsel of an ungodly world.*
- C. *That blessing makes us like a tree: alive, fruitful and stable rather than like chaff dead, dry and blown away ...*

3. *When we study Scripture, take it to heart and obey it we are transformed into New Creatures, into the image of God / Christ that we were originally created to be in knowledge, righteousness and holiness –*

²⁴ **and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ **and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)**

- 4. *We were created by God, male and female, with God given roles and abilities. For instance, a woman can give birth to a baby, a man cannot.*

According to modern “woke” “science” biological males can have babies, and should have a right to an abortion ---

They are teaching YOUNG CHILDREN in schools that they can change their gender and hospitals / doctors are cutting parts off the bodies of children, against the wills of parents...

- 5. *According to God’s Word human beings created in God’s image are to have be “fruitful and multiply” and have “dominion” over nature –*

²⁸ **Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)**

- A. *This is the opposite of population control and the cry for abortion, euthanasia and suicide so prevalent among the ungodly –*

¹² **There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)**

To the ungodly death is a solution: evolution, abortion, euthanasia are examples!

- B. *Dominion over nature is the opposite of the worship of nature promoted by the Global Warming / Climate Change / Worship Mother Earth rather than Father God religion – Every house, every tall building, every city, cars, roads, farms, raising cows and chickens for milk and eggs all of this is man’s dominion ...*

- C. *The global warming folks say EAT BUGS, eat the insects you can catch in the woods ... while farming, steak, cars, and well walled and guarded mansions will be the homes for a few atheists, their human slaves and some humans they might raise for PARTS as they already are doing in China. If man is not higher than an animal, those who are powerful will treat you like an animal.*

III. Think, think, think, be humble about your own mind and progress –

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

1. Note the word “think” is used by Paul three times in this verse! Christians think! *SDT*

2. Note specifically how we are instructed to think:

- A. not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think
- B. think soberly

3. Self-esteem, pride is attacked here. If Satan cannot trap us with error, he will snare us with *PRIDE* about our superior knowledge –

8 Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. 1 Corinthians 8:1 B (NKJV)

A. When he says knowledges “puffs up” he means knowledge not combined with love ---

B. We should be gentle, even when we are correct / when the other person is *WRONG* –

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

4. We should also be meek, humble about our knowledge, because none of us have “arrived” we all have room to grow, and we all can learn (usually) from each other –

... as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

How do we think soberly about ourselves?

1. If we compare ourselves to an ungodly world, we better *SHINE* in comparison, but not with pride, as they are really, really *BAD* –

¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:15 (NKJV)

2. If we compare ourselves to each other - ... as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

A. We cannot, should not be proud as our measure of faith / knowledge is a gift from God, not innate to ourselves.

B. To really know soberly what we should be, we compare ourselves to Christ, this will humble us so we can continue to grow – Psalm 25:9

⁹ The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. Psalm 25:9 (NKJV)