

Discipleship

Challenges to Our Call to
Nonconformity

Romans 12.1-2

- Calls us to a life of non-conformity
- What are the challenges we face?

Pluralism

- A. “A condition or system in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources of authority, etc., coexist”
- B. The NT recognizes the existence of a pluralistic world—Romans 13.1-8
- C. In our world, it’s part of the philosophy that says every “ism” is valid and worthy of respect
- D. Our non-conformity demands that we affirm and defend the uniqueness of Jesus Christ—I Timothy 1.17

Materialism

- A. “A tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.”
- B. Certainly we accept and believe that God created the material world
- C. Gnosticism is a very real belief that ALL matter is evil, and therefore not of God.
- D. Our non conformity demands that we affirm the rightness of the material world, and use it properly. I Timothy 6.17-19

Ethical Relativism

- A. “In ethics, the belief that nothing is objectively right or wrong and that the definition of right or wrong depends on the prevailing view of a particular individual, culture, or historical period.”
- B. In Bible believing circles, we all know that things like gay marriage are not relative
- C. But what about wearing jeans to Church?
- D. Our non conformity demands that we endeavor to do all things to God’s glory. I Cor. 10.31-33

Narcissism

- A. In Greek mythology, he was a beautiful hunter, so in love with himself, that he didn't care at all about the love of others. Another "god," Nemesis, enticed him to the river's edge, where he fell in love with his own image. Preoccupied with his own image, he died, staring at himself in the river.
- B. Certainly, the self-love and self-esteem movements are heavily narcissistic
- C. The Bible anticipates this: II Timothy 3
- D. And points out that only our salvation delivers us from it. II Cor. 5.15