

NON-CONFORMISTS

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The Christian is a non-conformist. He does not go along with many trends of the world. What the world finds sexy, cool, or in vogue is not always found in the actions, language, or dress of the Christian. This is not because the Christian is weird or a troublemaker, but because he lives according to divine standards of decency and purity. These standards are not what the world subscribes to. Therefore, Christians must be “non-conformists.” Consider what the Bible says:

*“Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, **not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance**; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:13-16).*

The former lusts we are not to conform ourselves to are the things of this world – the lusts of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life – things that are not of God (1 John 2:15-17). These things we leave behind along with our ignorance when we learn to discern between good and evil. When we have “learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus,” we are able to “put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:20-24). This will make us non-conformists in this world – so be it!

As non-conformists, we stand strong as a people transformed into servants of God, just as the Bible says:

*“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. 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” (Romans 12:1-2).*

Our spiritual transformation takes place in the “mind” – in our inner man, or spirit. It is there that any change must begin. Jesus taught that “those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man” (Matthew 15:18). This is true about what we *think* (evil thoughts, sexual lust), *say* (filthy language, blasphemies, lies), and *do* (sexual immorality, theft, murders). If we are to change any of these sinful things, we must change what we believe and how we think. A new standard and direction must be accepted wholeheartedly. This is what is called “conversion,” and is why all men are called to “repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).

Where sin is concerned, a Christian should never be ashamed of being a non-conformist. The things of the world should not hold any interest for us. Though we may see and hear the enticements of sin every day, they should have less and less appeal to us as we grow in Christ.

Unfortunately, we are not totally immune from the enticements of sin. Temptation faces each Christian, and some are lured back into the clutches of the world. The Bible reveals what an ugly and tragic sight this is:

*For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning**. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire’” (2 Peter 2:20-22).*

It is significant to note that God says the “latter end is worse for them than the beginning.” Falling back into the clutches of sin – after knowing the way of righteousness and then turning from the holy commandment – puts one in an even worse position than before he knew the truth. All sinners will be lost, but those who leave the Lord to

consume the “vomit” of the world and “wallow” in the filth of sin have put themselves in an especially unpleasant position.

Each Christian needs to prepare daily to be a “non-conformist.” We should gladly avoid evil thoughts, words, and actions that are shameful and defiling. The judgment of the world is of little concern to those who are preparing for the judgment of the Creator. The world will notice that you talk and act different – be a non-conformist and ***let your light shine!!***