

A Living Sacrifice

is transformed by the Word

I. *The Deception of Conformity to the World*

Conformity: “External pressure being used intentionally, to shape and mold a person

- Romans 12:2, 1 Peter 1:13-16, Romans 8:28-30
- “Christians have been introduced into the life of the world to come; what a tragedy, then, if they conform to the perishing world they have left.” - Leon Morris

a. Four Biblical Examples of Conformity

1. Conformity to the World in all its **darkness** - 1 John 2:15-17, Gal. 5:19-21
2. Conformity to the World in all its **goodness** - Matthew 23
3. Conformity to the World in all its **hypocrisy** - Matthew 15
4. Conformity to the World in all its **blindness** - 2 Corinthians 4:4

b. Four Questions to ask regarding Conformity

1. Which of the four examples above most frequently characterizes your battle with conformity to the world?
2. Who will you ask to honestly evaluate your life, this week? You may ask, “In what ways do you see me pursuing conformity to ungodly thinking and directions?”
3. Which situations and people in your routine week reveal a heart bent toward worldly conformity?
4. What streams of influence are you continually giving access to mold you?

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - **Romans 12:2**

11. *The Transformational Power of the Word*

Transformation: “Internal, gradual blossoming of character based on a new set of thoughts and desires.”

- Colossians 3.1-2, 2 Cor 3.18, James 1:22

a. Four Truths of Transformation

1. Spiritual Transformation takes Intention
2. Spiritual Transformation takes Faith
3. Spiritual Transformation is only possible on a deep level
4. Spiritual Transformation is only possible by the Holy Spirit

b. Four Questions to ask regarding Transformation

1. What key ways can someone engage deeply with the Word, so it has a transformational impact on their life?
2. What is your specific plan this week, for engaging the Word in a transformational context?
3. What do you need to cut out of your life this week, to get 15 minutes of time with the Word on a repeat cycle?
4. What area(s) of your life do you already know needs renewed thinking and transformational power?

Next Week –

Why do we have different gifts?
How should I use my gifts in the church?

How to Connect Further –

Ask for honest evaluation of areas in your life that exhibit conformity to the world.

Memorize Romans 12:2

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