

Come to Conformity

God loves originality. There is no place in Christianity for rubber stamp conformity. No church can be effective in its mission of reaching the lost for Christ if the members are all alike. That being said, there is a conformity that is vital to the development of each individual's unique personality, talents and gifts. The word "conformed" is mentioned twice in the Bible, both times in the book of Romans. (Romans 8:29) (Romans 12:2) We are told that we are "predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son" in the first reference; in the second we are told "be not conformed to this world". One is a destiny, the other is a choice.

Though both verses use the same English word, the Greek words from which "conformed" is translated are different in each verse. To be conformed to Christ is to fit jointly, like a glove on the hand or, as in woodworking like a dovetail joint; to fit or to be joined together. On the other hand, to be conformed to the world means only to copy. Christians who want to be like the world can only copy, they can never fit. Copying has never been God's way of accomplishing His purposes. In fact everything that is good is original with God. If each snowflake is an original, why can't every child of God be an original? Copying the world leads to a loss of individualism and undermines the unique purpose for which you were created. The Bible uses some very strong language in this matter of worldliness. (James 4:4) No one intends to be the enemy of God, yet when we copy the world we align ourselves with it, and we find ourselves on the wrong side of the battle field.

The destiny of every saved person is to be conformed to the image of Christ. That means it is going to happen even if they make God wait until they leave their body in the grave, if they are saved, it is going to happen. The problem with waiting until then is that they end up spending their whole life on the wrong side of the battle field.

James Thurber said, "Why do you have to be a nonconformist like everybody else?"

Bill Vaughan said, "If there is anything the nonconformist hates worse than a conformist, it's another nonconformist who doesn't conform to the prevailing standard of nonconformity".