

September 9, 2020

Be Not Conformed

As we begin **Romans 12:2**, Paul beseeches us not to be conformed to this world. The word conformed means to be pressed into a mold. Many people today would like to think they are not being pressed into any mold, that they are free to think and do as they please. This is part of Satan's deception. In reality, we are all being conformed either into the image of Christ or into the world. The world would have us believe there is no God and if there is, we don't need Him. The belief that we can live as we please, demonstrates that a person is already being influenced by the world's thinking. God would have us be humble in spirit, submitting one to another. The world says no one can tell you what to do. In essence, you are your own god.

How does the world conform us into its mold? The battle takes place in the mind. The world is seeking to change and control the way you think. That's why Paul goes on to say that we need to be renewed in our mind. How does the world influence the way we think? The world is constantly bombarding our mind through the five senses, sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Take five days this week and each day choose one of the five senses and make a list of ways the world seeks to influence the mind through that human sense. To help you get started, think of sight in terms of Hollywood and TV, hearing in terms of news and entertainment media, taste and smell in terms of dining and strong drink, and touch in terms of dating and immorality.

If the world is constantly trying to influence our mind in an effort to change or control our thinking in order to conform us into its mold, what ought we to do as believers? How can we guard against or combat the influence of the world? Look up the following verses and note which sense they apply to. **Job 31:1, Proverbs 2:1-2,16, Proverbs 5:3-4, Proverbs 23:29-33, II Corinthians 6:17, II Corinthians 10:4-5, and Philippians 4:8.** Can you think of any other verses that you can use as weapons against the influence of the world?

Ultimately, our way of thinking affects our heart. Proverbs 4:23-27 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Note the references to the different senses. As we conclude this week's meditation, to what degree have you been influenced or conformed to the world's mold? What steps can you take to counter this worldly influence?