

"Conformed or Transformed" Pt. III

Intro: We are spending this time looking at the prohibition of this verse that we might be alerted to something much of the church is unaware of - that she is in danger of conforming to the world around her.

A. As we realize just how mounting of a problem this is in the church today, it becomes very clear how necessary it is for us to have the Doctrines of Grace clearly establish in our hearts and minds.

Romans 12:2

I. We, the church of the living God, are called to be the pillar and support of the truth. Therefore, we are not to be conformed to the world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds.

A. The church conforms to the world by giving herself to secularism - thinking like the world thinks; failing to consider the eternal things of God.

B. Humanism flows from secularism.

1. As a congregation conforms to the world by giving itself to humanistic thinking, she becomes man-centered rather than God-centered.

C. Relativism flows from secularism.

1. The congregation that is given to relativism does not believe in the sufficiency nor authority of the Scripture.

D. Materialism flows from secularism.

1. Materialism is defined as 1a: a theory that physical matter is the only or fundamental reality ... b: a doctrine that the only or highest values or objectives lie in material well-being ... 2: a preoccupation with or stress upon material rather than intellectual or spiritual things."

a. If we deny the supernatural, then the material is all there is and the meaning of human life is found in the material.

2. Romans 1:25 says, "For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature [or the created] rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." When we come to worship the created rather than the Creator we become materialistic!

3. Has the church adopted the materialistic thinking of the world? What recent thing in church history hasn't someone found a way to market and profit from it?

4. We need to take the example of the heroes of faith as found in Hebrews 11.

a. We must have a right perspective of the Creator, for then we will have a right perspective of the created.

E. Pragmatism flows from secularism.

1. Pragmatism is defined as: "A philosophy that measures truth by its practical value." In pragmatism, truth is to be tested by its practical consequences. The question in pragmatic circles is not, "Is this the truth?", but "Does it work?"
2. The one who is given to the pragmatic believes that the ends justifies the means. In pragmatism, principle is not as important as result.
3. The real question will be, "Did we glorify God?", not "Did it work?"
4. The pragmatic depends upon what they can see and measure. You see, pragmatism is not of faith. The pragmatist would never march his people up to the Red Sea - and he would never see the glory of God either.
5. We are not here to produce for God, but to obey God. And through our obedience He will produce that which He desires. And then, we will see the glorious hand of God moving among us!

F. Lastly, mindlessness towards the things of God flows from secularism.

1. The church that is conformed and has become mindless to the things of God is much more concerned with being entertained than giving a sermon a thought.
2. In the conformed church who finds it her goal to be entertaining because her people are mindless, as one man wrote, "God comes out as second banana." "And" he wrote, "If I am not mistaken the word for this is blasphemy!"

G. Having looked at the prohibition of Romans 12:2, we now take a short turn to the admonition.

1. If we, the church, would think with a transformed renewed mind, we would not conform to the secular ideas of this world, but we would know what the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God is for our lives.
2. While it is completely true that if we are going to be transformed by the renewing of our mind that it will be a work of the grace of God in our minds, we must also note that Paul instructs us to be renewed!
3. So, it is in submissive cooperation with the Holy Spirit of God, that we are compelled to teach the "Doctrines of Grace."
4. These truths can act as a litmus test by which we are able to approve what the will of God is in any matter.

Closing: Comprehending such truths as the Doctrines of Grace, will serve to establish our lives upon the rock solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

Will you be conformed to this world, or transformed by the renewing of your mind by the Word of God?

