

# UNDERSTANDING CONFORMITY

741dt

**TEXT: Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:13-14**

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Comment on Scripture Text.
2. Let us begin by defining "conformity."
3. Conformity is to conform to another's pattern. The desire to be like someone else.
  - a. Do what they do.
  - b. Say what they say.
  - c. Wear what they wear.
4. A conformist, therefore, is someone who:
  - a. Is afraid to be different.
  - b. Feels a need to be like everyone else.

## I. CONFORMITY IN OUR SOCIETY...

1. There is tremendous pressure to conform to the standards of others.
  - a. Even adults feel a need to conform.
  - b. Also many young people (in their clothes, cars, etc.).
2. The pressure to conform is often strongest during adolescence.
  - a. The young are often easy prey because they have low-esteem.
  - b. They want desperately to be accepted and esteemed by others.
3. Advertisers add to the problem by the way they market and sell their products.

## II. THE DANGER OF CONFORMITY..

1. It can easily lead you to do things you know are wrong.
2. When others follow suit, the pressure to conform is great.
3. Conformity to the things of this world can separate us from God!
4. How shall we deal with the pressures of conformity...?

## III. HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PRESSURE TO CONFORM

### A. BE A TRANSFORMIST, NOT A CONFORMIST...

1. A **conformist** (as used here) is one who undergoes a superficial, shallow change and becomes a cheap imitation, letting others do their thinking for them.
2. A **transformist** is one who undergoes a real change, experiencing a true "renewal".
3. Becoming a **transformist** addresses the reasons why many conform.
  - a. They have a feeling of insecurity.
  - b. They desire to follow the crowd.

### B. BE A LEADER, NOT A FOLLOWER

1. A **transformist** is a leader.
2. A **transformist** is one who proves to others what is good, acceptable and perfect.
3. They present their bodies as living and holy sacrifices.
4. They have the courage to say "no" to things that are wrong.
5. They are the example that helps others fight off the pressures to conform and giving them the strength to say "no".

## CONCLUSION

1. Everyone experiences the pressure to conform to the standards and practices of the world.
  - a. Especially the young who are so impressionable.
  - b. But even those who are older are persuaded by those in positions of power and influence.
2. We have a choice...
  - a. Either to be led by those destroying their own bodies, minds, and souls.
  - b. Or look to Jesus and allow ourselves to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.
3. If we are to conform, let us conform to the image of Jesus - **Romans 8:29**.
  - a. This will require a true transformation of the inner man.
  - b. And we can demonstrate what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God!