**BIBLE – WARNING - DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD**

***ROMANS 12:1-2 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – One of Satan’s most powerful devices is getting Christians to conform to the world and the ways the left behind when they obeyed the gospel. Paul exhorts the brethren at Rome to not be conformed to the sinful influence of the Roman empire specifically and the world in general. **ROM. 12:1-2** - ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

The world today still calls those who are Christians to return and conform once again to the ways of the world.

In our study today we want to notice some of the ways of the world to which the Christian cannot be conformed. How are Christians different from those conformed to the world?

***BIBLE - DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: How are Christians different?***

1. **THE WAY WE TALK** – Be not conformed to the world
   1. World – Lies sometimes – Little white lies do not matter
      1. **COL. 3:9** – Be a person whose word can be depended upon. Speak the truth.
   2. Uses profanity – foul language – Euphuisms
      1. **EPH. 4:29; 5:4** – Do not let filthy communication proceed from your mouth.
   3. Backbiting – gossiping
      1. **PSA. 15:1-4** – We cannot please God if we backbite with our tongue.
   4. Curse – man and God –
      1. **JAMES 3:8-12** – We must not play the role of the hypocrite in regard to our tongue.
2. **THE WAY WE DRESS** – Be not conformed to the world
   1. Public nakedness -
      1. **GEN. 3:7, 21** – Even Adam and Eve knew it was not right to be openly naked. Their view of solving the problem and being clothed did not meet with the approval of God.
      2. **EX. 20:26, 28:42** – God did not want their nakedness exposed. Just what did God view as their nakedness is described for us later in Exodus?
   2. Lust provoking attire –
      1. **MATT. 5:28** – What if your manner of dress causes someone to lose their soul
      2. **MATT. 18:6-7** – Notice the attitude Jesus said we should have toward our influence of others.
   3. Immodest attire –
      1. **1 TIM. 2:9-10** – Immodest attire can either be too much or to little.
   4. Excessive attention –
      1. **1 PET. 3:3-5** – Peter is trying to get us to understand that what is on the outside that we may want people to see is not important when compared to what is on the inside.
3. **THE WAY WE ENTERTAIN OURSELVES** – Be not conformed to the world
   1. Lascivious activities- dancing, drinking, no sexual restraint
      1. **GAL. 5:19** – Paul lists as part of the lust of the flesh drunkenness, revelries, and such like
   2. Drinking parties – keg parties, holiday parties, birthday parties
      1. **1 PET. 4:1-3** – We should not live solely for the lust of the flesh but to do the will of God.
   3. Pornography – TV, movies, internet it is rampant in our society – Pedophiles
      1. **PSA. 101:3** – Be like the psalmist and pledge to set nothing wicked before your eyes.
4. **THE WAY WE BEHAVE IN THE HOME** – Be not conformed to the world
   1. Husbands – Tyrants or bums
      1. **EPH. 5:25-29** – Do we love our wives properly? Do we show care and concern for them?
   2. Wives – That do not respect or obey their husbands
      1. **EPH. 5:22-24** – The wife is to submit to her husband as to the Lord – willingly not forced or coerced.
   3. Children – Who disobey their parents
      1. **EPH. 6:1-3** – Children obey your parents, but I am not a child I am grown is the typical excuse for rebellious attitudes. Answer some simple questions in regard to obeying your parents – Where do you live? Who provides for the utilities - water, electricity, and gas? Who provides the food that you eat? Then heed their spiritual instructions they provide as well.
   4. Divorce without God’s approval –
      1. **MATT. 19:6** – God’s plan is one man with one woman for life and they should not be separated.
   5. Abortion used as birth control –
      1. **PSA. 127:3-5** – God says celebrate life, be happy.
5. **THE WAY WE TREAT THE “RESPECTABLE THINGS” OF THE WORLD** –
   1. Cares and concerns dominate –
      1. **2 TIM. 2:4**- We must be on guard to not let the cares and concerns of this life detract from our service as a soldier of the cross. We are part of the Lord’s army are we serving faithfully for the Lord?
   2. We give more attention to this life –
      1. **MARK 4:18-19** – Are we like the seed sown among the thorns? Are the concerns, cares, and problems of this world are choking out the word in our life. We need to be honest!!!
   3. Our heart is with our treasure –
      1. **MATT. 6:19-21** – What is our treasure? What is precious to us? Where are we laying up treasure? The answer is either in heaven or on earth

**CONCLUSION** –

Are we different from the world?

We must be careful to not conform to this world!

Heed the warnings of the apostle of love – John - **1 JN. 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

James by inspiration encourages us to not conform to the world - **JAMES 1:27 - Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

Are you unspotted from the world?

If not the blood of Christ can remove the spots of sin from your life today if you will humbly obey him – **HEB. 5:8-9**