

Be Not Conformed to This World

- I. Christians are commanded to "be not conformed to this world" (**Rom 12:2**).
 1. The Lord instructs us to be nonconformists.
 - A. Conform v. - 1. *trans.* To form, shape, or fashion according to some pattern, model, or instruction; to make of the same form or character, to make like.
 - B. We are therefore not to pattern our thoughts and behavior after the way of this world.
 - C. We should not look, act, and think like the people of this world.
 2. We are *in* the world, but we must not be *of* the world (**Joh 17:11 c/w Joh 17:14,16; Joh 15:18-19; 1Co 5:9-10**).
 3. God wants us to be in this world for a time to be the salt and light of it (**Joh 17:15 c/w Mat 5:13-16**).
 4. We can *use* this world, but not *abuse* it (**1Co 7:31**).
 5. Abuse v. - 1. To disuse, give up. *Obs.* 2. a. To use improperly, to misuse; to make a bad use of, to pervert, or misemploy; to take a bad advantage of
- II. Examples of being not conformed to this world. Consider what the world says versus what God says concerning the following.
 1. How we got here
 - A. The world says that we evolved from pond scum over billions of years.
 - B. God says He created everything, living and nonliving, in six days (**Gen 1:1-31; Exo 20:11**).
 2. Religion
 - A. The world says that all religions are equal and all lead to God.
 - B. God says that Christianity is the only true religion and that all others are an abomination (**Joh 14:6; Act 4:12; Joh 4:23-24; Pro 15:8; 1Co 10:20-21**).
 3. Salvation
 - A. The world says that eternal salvation is conditioned on something a person does (faith or other works).
 - B. God says that eternal salvation is only by His sovereign grace and has nothing to do with what a person does, including his will or works (**Rom 9:11-16**).
 4. Israel
 - A. The world says that the modern nation of Israel are God's chosen people that must be supported at all costs.
 - B. God says that the modern nation of Israel are antichrists (**1Jo 2:22-23**) who hate God (**Joh 15:23**), whom we should not help (**2Ch 19:2**).
 5. Premarital relationships
 - A. The world says that young people should experiment with sex before marriage to make sure they are sexually compatible.
 - B. God says that we must abstain from fornication and never have sex before marriage (**1Co 6:18; 1Th 4:3; Heb 13:4**).
 6. Sodomy
 - A. The world says that being "gay" is perfectly acceptable and even preferable.
 - B. God says being "gay" is an abomination (**Lev 18:22; Lev 20:13; Deu 23:17; Rom 1:26-27**).

7. Gender
 - A. The world says that you should be able to choose your gender.
 - B. God says that He chose your gender for you (**Gen 1:27**), and to try to change it (effeminacy, cross dressing) is an abomination (**1Co 6:9; Deu 22:5**).
8. Marriage
 - A. The world says that two sodomites of the same sex can and should marry each other.
 - B. God says that marriage is a union between a man a woman (**Mat 19:4-5**) and that sodomy is an abomination.
9. Divorce
 - A. The world says that a couple can divorce and remarry for any reason.
 - B. God says to divorce and remarry for any reason but fornication or the abandonment of a believer by an unbeliever is adultery (**Mat 19:6,9; Rom 7:2-3; 1Co 7:15**).
10. Husband and wife relationship
 - A. The world says that authority in marriage should be 50/50.
 - B. God says that the husband is the head of the wife and that she must submit to him in everything (**Eph 5:22-24**).
11. Women's duties in marriage
 - A. The world says that women should follow their dreams and pursue a career outside the home.
 - B. God says that women should marry and then cook, clean, and take care of their husbands and children (**1Ti 5:14; Tit 1:4-5**).
12. Feminism
 - A. The world says that women are equal to men in every respect.
 - B. God says that women are the weaker vessels (**1Pe 3:7; Isa 19:16; Jer 51:30**) who are more easily deceived (**1Ti 2:14**).
13. Having children
 - A. The world says that children are a burden and that having lots of them is foolish.
 - B. God says that children are a blessing, and the more the better (**Psa 127:3-5**).
14. Abortion
 - A. The world says that a mother can murder her baby as long as it hasn't exited the womb.
 - B. God says that a baby is a child from conception and those who would harm them are as cruel and stupid as ostriches (**Isa 7:14 c/w Mat 1:23; Lam 4:3 c/w Job 39:13-17**).
15. College
 - A. The world says that all young people should go to college.
 - B. God says that most of what is taught in college is foolishness (**1Co 1:19-21; Rom 1:22**), and that the debt that most kids take on for it is stupid (see below).
16. Debt
 - A. The world says that debt is good and that we should not wait, but buy cars and every thing else we desire with loans and credit cards.
 - B. God says that debt is bad, stupid, and enslaving (**Rom 13:8; Pro 24:27; Pro 22:7**).
17. Fiat money
 - A. The world says that paper is money and that gold is not money but a barbarous relic.
 - B. God says that gold and silver are money (**Gen 44:8; Gen 23:16**).
18. Slavery

- A. The world says that slavery is one of the greatest moral evils.
 - B. God allows it as long as the slave was not stolen and forced to be a slave (**1Ti 6:1-2 c/w 1Ti 1:10**).
19. Open borders/world government
- A. The world says that world government would solve all of our problems and that there should be no nations and borders.
 - B. God says that nations should be divided, not united (**Deu 32:8; Act 17:26-27**).
20. War
- A. The world says that war is good, patriotic, and economically beneficial.
 - B. God says to not fight with people who have not harmed us (**Pro 3:30**), and to not murder people (**Mat 19:18**).
21. Tolerance
- A. The world says that we should be tolerant and accepting of all ideas and lifestyles.
 - B. God says we should hate every false way (**Psa 119:128**).
22. Following the crowd
- A. The world says to go with the flow and not be an oddball.
 - B. God says to not follow a multitude to do evil (**Exo 23:2**).