

Living According to God's Pattern

International Bible Lesson

Romans 12:1-2 & 13:8-14

Sunday, August 28, 2016

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

“The pattern of this world” means behavior that contradicts what the Bible teaches about loving God and others; practices that disrespect God and God’s laws. Those of this world want everyone to live according to their patterns instead of God’s pattern as revealed by Jesus Christ. They often try to force their patterns on others by denying tenure to a professor, denying a passing grade to a student, firing an employee, denying free assembly and free speech, using unjust laws to persecute those who obey God’s laws, bringing lawsuits against those who will not approve of, aid, or support their ungodly patterns (and say so). In some countries, they imprison, torture, and behead those who disagree with them. Facing increasing patterns of persecution, people can learn the laws of logic and recognize logical fallacies; they can study the Bible, pray for the Holy Spirit to help them understand the Bible, and immediately practice with the help of God the truths they learn from the Bible. When challenged to adopt the pattern of this world, people need to remember that whatever God does and wills is good; what God wills for people to do is always good. Doing God’s will and obeying God’s laws will always please God, bringing the follower of Christ the peace that will ultimately please God and them forever. God’s law to love God and others expresses God’s perfect will for everyone, and the Bible reveals the perfect pattern for living according to the way God designed us to live.

— E-mail: lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org : *You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.* More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org. Read the verse by verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* at: InternationalBibleLessons.com.

— © Copyright 2016 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. All rights reserved.

Thinking Further

1. From what Paul wrote in Romans 12:1-2, how can a Christian avoid conforming to the pattern of this world?
2. What objective and infallible standard has God given people and Christians use to test and approve what the will of God is?
3. What is a debt? According to Paul, what debt do all Christians owe?
4. How did Paul say Christians can fulfill the law of God?
5. What does it mean to you to clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ?