



Living According to God's Pattern

Romans 12:1-8

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:2—KJV).

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2—NASB).

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2—NRSV).

Living “conformed to 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 everyone 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 and bring the follower of Christ the peace that will ultimately please God and themselves forever. God’s law to love God and others expresses God’s perfect will for everyone. The Bible reveals the perfect way to live according to the way God designed us to live.

Thinking Further

1. As Christians, what and how should we sacrifice to God?
2. As Christians, how can we be transformed?
3. What would happen if everyone in the Church had the same function?
4. How should Christians think about themselves?
5. In the Church, why do members have different gifts?