

Session One: Confronting Conformity

RHG Focal Verse:

“Do not conform any longer 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

Introduction:

Confronting Conformity: “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world...”

- **Conform:** To be similar or identical to; to be in agreement or harmony with; to give the same shape, outline, or contour
- **Pattern:** a form or model used for imitation

Areas we struggle with:

- **Home-** size, neighborhood, decor.
- **Clothes-** what size, where we shop, whether our wardrobe is “in style” or “out of style.”
- **Vehicle-** owning the latest greatest model of vehicle with all the amenities.
- **School for our children-** public, private, or homeschool
- **To work or stay at home-** what will others think if I stay at home or go to work?
- **Our appearance-** in shape, out of shape, or beyond any shape!
- **Family-** desiring the “perfect family.”
- **Overall quality of life we think we should possess-** having everything we think we “need” in order to make an impact on this world.

Confronting Conformity Key Passage: Deuteronomy 4:25-31

4 Keys to this Passage:



1. The Promised Land:
2. Moses' Instructions:
3. Idol Worship:
4. Scattered Place:

How to Confront Conformity: Deuteronomy 4:29-31

1. Seek God:
Seek: "To seek to find, to seek to secure, or to seek the face."
2. Obey God:
Obey: "to yield"
Yield: "to surrender or relinquish to the physical control of another; to hand over possession of; or to surrender or submit (oneself) to another."

Conclusion:

Session Two:



Embracing Transformation

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Introduction:

Embracing Transformation: “...but be transformed...”

Transformed: Greek word **metamorphoo**

Metamorphosis is a process by which an animal physically develops after birth or hatching, and involves significant change in form as well as growth, differentiation, and accompanies a change of habitat or of habits.

4 Aspects of Spiritual Metamorphosis:

1. Significant Change in Form:

- a. **Salvation**- moving from spiritual death to life.
Romans 6:23. Paul states, “for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- b. **Sanctification**- becoming more like Jesus and less like the world.
1 Thessalonians 4:1. Paul states, “we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.”

2. Spiritual Growth:



- a. Letting go of rule/regulations: Jesus and the Pharisees encounter in Matthew 23.
- b. Embracing the heart of Christ.

Mary of Bethany- three encounters with Jesus.

- a. Luke 10:38-42

- b. John 11:17-45

- c. Matthew 26:6-13

3. Differentiation:

Definition: the process of becoming **distinct** or **different** in character.

Similar words for distinct or different:

- a. Distinct: Unique, Unmistakable, Apparent, or Notable
- b. Different: Diverse, Dissimilar, Unusual, or Separate

Distinct Character Quality: John 13:34-35, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciple, if you love one another.”

4. Change of habitat or of habits:



- a. Habitat: The places we go.

- b. Habits: The things we do.

Key Component: Friendships

“A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”
Proverbs 12:26

- Close Friend:

- Caring Friend:

- Casual Friend:

Conclusion:



Session Three: Implementing Renewal

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Introduction:

Implementing Renewal: “...by the renewing of your mind.”

- The renewing process takes place in the mind
- The renewing process provides the ‘how-to’ of transformation.
- Renewing enables believers to test and approve God’s will for their lives.

Renewal Defined: the word renewing means to make like new. The Greek word used is anakainosis meaning renewal, renovation, or rejuvenation.

Implementing Renewal Key Passage: Colossians 3:15-17

4 Key Truths about Renovation:

1. **In renovating, the tearing down process takes just as much time and energy as the rebuilding process.** Colossians 3:15 states, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”
2. **When renovating it is essential to have a plan, know the plan, and consult the plan every single day.** Colossians 3:16 states, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”



3. **Successful renovation requires that you always be on the lookout for new materials and useful tools to aid you in the process.** Colossians 3:16b states, “as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God”

4. **Renovating is hard work and the work is never done.** Colossians 3:17 states, “And whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Practical Steps to Renewing:

1. Utilizing the Word of God
 - a. Quiet Time before the reactive point of your day
 - b. Scripture memory
 - c. Journaling

2. Expressing Praise to God
 - a. Personal Worship
 - b. Meditation

3. Practicing the Disciplines of the Faith
 - a. Praying (acts model)
 - b. Giving
 - c. Fasting

Conclusion:



Session Four: Resolving to Test and Approve

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Introduction:

Resolving to Test and Approve: “Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Key Thoughts on God’s Will:

- God has a good, pleasing and perfect will for your life.
- Discovering God’s good, pleasing and perfect will becomes possible when you view life from His perspective not your own.
- God’s good, pleasing and perfect will requires a testing process. You can only test and approve once you have forsaken conformity, surrendered to transformation, and renewed your mind.



The Trap of God's Will:

- You can become trapped by God's will in two ways:
 - Thinking that God the Creator is dependent upon you the creation to accomplish His work on this earth.
 - Recognize the trap: 50/50 Partnership Struggle.
 - Right the wrong: Embrace the role of obedience. Philippians 2:12-13 states, "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good pleasure."
 - Choosing obedience in order to secure a desired blessing from God.
 - Recognize the Trap: Performance Based Religion void of genuine love, devotion, and surrender.
 - Right the Wrong: Embrace the role of righteousness. Deuteronomy 6:25, "If we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

Three Steps to Test and Approve

The words test and approve come from one Greek word. *Dokimazo* means, "approved, tested, to test, try, prove, scrutinize, discern, distinguish, approve, the process of testing a thing to ascertain whether it be worthy to be received."

1. Recognize the Authority of the Word of God: The Good Will of God.

- a. The good will of God often materializes in the form of a word of instruction or a promise to claim.
- b. Anything that brings you closer to God is good!
- c. Anything God calls you to do will line up with the Word of God



- d. When testing and approving, ask yourself this question, “What does the Bible say about that?”
 - e. Psalm 19:7-11: Follow God’s Word and experience: Your soul being revived, you will be made wise, you will experience joy in your heart, you will obtain His light to see things in a different way, you will be warned in dangerous territory, and you will receive reward that comes as you obey.
2. Examine your Attitude and Actions: The Pleasing Will of God.
- a. The pleasing will of God calls you to examine your attitude and actions.
 - b. When trying to discern God’s will you must stop and take inventory of your heart in order to determine if sin reigns in your life. Because sin is the number one deterrent to the presence of God in a believer’s life, sin must be dealt with before life decisions are made.
 - c. Psalm 139:23-24 states, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
 - d. Pray, “Lord shine Your bright light into every dark corner of my soul. Lord expose the sin hidden in my heart.”
3. Look at how God has worked in prior days: The Perfect Will of God
- a. The perfect will of God forces you to view your life from His big picture perspective.
 - b. God desires to work in and through your life in order to bring you to a place of perfection, which means completion, in Him.
 - c. Examine the previous work God has performed in your life in order to determine correct future steps. Remain teachable over the course of your life as you view your time on this earth as a journey home. Stop compartmentalizing your life and allow God to use anything and everything from the past for His glory.
 - d. Romans 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Conclusion:

