

Conforming to the Image
Romans 8
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what purpose God has for man.

Intro: 1. God knows what He wants for man.
2. However, man must do what is necessary to become what God wants us to be.

I. God's Purpose (**Rom 8:29**)

- A. God let His Son identify with humanity and He was:
 - 1. Man's idea of God (**Jn 14:9**)
 - 2. God's ideal of man.
- B. When God made Adam He was God's ideal man.
- C. When God made Eve she was God's ideal woman.
- D. Sin came – all was changed – soon sin became so dominant that man became ungodly.
- E. God sent His son to show how men in a world corrupted by sin and suffering in the consequences could be what God wanted them to be.
- F. It will be done by “conforming the image” of Christ.
 - 1. “Conform”: signifies having the same form as another.
 - 2. Cannot refer to outward way.

II. Conforming demands a transforming (**2 Cor 3:17**)

- A. Transforming by renewal of mind (**Rom 12:1-2**)
- B. Emphasis on mind (**Rom 12:1-2**)
- C. Rules, Rituals – without a change of heart – will not produce a Christ-like life (**Mt 15:7-8**)

III. The Process of Conforming (**Col 3:1-11**)

- A. Become heavenly minded (**Mt 6:19-20**)
 - 1. Where is your heart?
 - 2. Doesn't mean we are unconcerned about here and now.
- B. Put to death (**Col 3:5**) – Decision to die
- C. Put away attitudes and actions that are unlike Christ (**Col 3:7-9**)
- D. “Renewed unto knowledge” – after image of him that created Him.

IV. Lessons for Us Today

- A. Christian conformity
 - 1. The Christian is to conform to the right image.
 - 2. That image is Christ (**1 Cor 11:1**).
- B. Failed conformity
 - 1. Failure to conform to the right image results in conformity to the world.
 - 2. The worldly mold is continually changing, not so with Christ (**Heb 13:8**).

Application & Conclusion:

1. We would do well to remember the words of the Apostle Paul (**Rom 12:2**)
2. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9