

## CONFORMITY: GOAL AND MEANS

(Phil. 3:17-21)

### Introduction:

1. Conformity has a bad name in our world today, and yet is a biblical goal and means. Not an accident.
2. Individuality is a device used by the devil to sell us selfishness and rebellion.
3. The truth is that salvation is only possible via conformity to Christ (aka Christ-likeness). The deeper truth is that conformity to Christ on earth produces conformity to Christ in Heaven.
4. Let us look at the big picture, some instructions, and a final plea from Christ.

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### Discussion:

#### I. Big Picture.

- A. Sin is that which is not OF God. Sin is the absence of God, just as darkness is the absence of light. Thus those in sin cannot be with God. To be with God one must be like God.
- B. Since this is the case, one of the reasons Jesus came into the world was to show us perfectly what God was like (and thus, what we must be like).
- C. The math = Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:15; John 14:9; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 2 Tim. 2:2; et al.

#### II. Instructions.

- A. Phil. 3:21 = Christians eagerly look to be conformed to the glorious body of our Lord (cp. 1 John 3:1-3).
  1. “Conformed” = *ginomai* = to become, to be made, finished-Thayer.
  2. “Transform” = *metashematizo* = to change figure/condition, to transform-Thayer.
  3. VV 1-16 = Warnings against false teachers and false goals.
  4. VV 17-21 = How we pursue conformity to Christ’s glorious body.
- B. 1 John 3:1-3 = To be like Jesus after death we must be like Jesus (pure) in life.
- C. Rom. 8:29 = God determined that those who are conformed to the image of His Son will be saved.
  1. “Conformed” = *summorphos* = (lit. united/nature) having same form as another, similar, conformed to-Thayer.
  2. Notice the process of conformity in V30 = called (by the Gospel), justified (by obedience to that Gospel), results in being glorified (that is, being transformed = having our condition changed = *metaschematizo*).
  3. Paul is going to hit on this again 4 chapters later in Rom. 12.
- D. Rom. 12:1, 2.
  1. “Transformed” = *metamorphoo* = (lit. change nature) to change into another form-Thayer.
  2. This is accomplished by not conforming (*suschematizo* = to conform one’s self to another’s pattern-Thayer) to the world, but by renewing (*anakainosis* = renovated-Thayer) our mind (Eph. 4:20-24).
  3. The rest of the chapter details the transformation via mental renovation (vv 3-21).

#### III. Final Plea.

- A. John 14:1-12.
  1. Jesus is coming back for His own, so do not be discouraged (VV 1-4).
  2. Jesus is the image to conform to; the path to follow (VV 5-12).
- B. Jesus will come to receive His own. “His own” are those who are conformed to His image and walking His path.

### Conclusion:

1. Matt. 11:28-30 = Our Lord has invited all to come to Him and learn the image to conform to and the path to walk. Those who do will find rest for their souls = will be conformed to the glorious image of our Lord.
2. Invitation.