

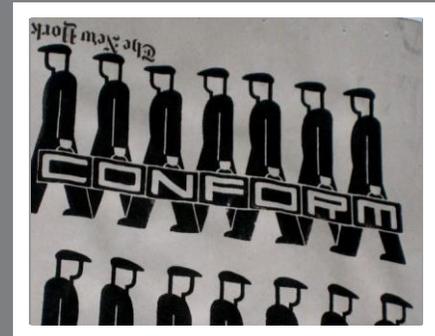
Are⁷ alright with being “weird.”

We live in a culture where everyone wants to be “different.” I always found it humorous while in high school that there was a group of students who determined that they would never “conform.” They did a lot of things to stand out. They wore a certain kind of clothes, hair style, and piercings, all in order to stand out. Never realizing however that they all looked exactly alike.

What does the Bible have to teach us about conforming to this world?

Bible Teaching.

- **Romans 12:1-2-** The apostle Paul gives us some strong teaching about conforming to the world vs. being transformed.
- **Phil 3:20-** We read that we have a citizenship, and that citizenship is not here on earth, but in heaven. Do our lives reflect that?
- **Matthew 5:13-16-** Jesus teaches us about being the light of the world. Specifically in v.14 he states that a city on a hill can NOT be hidden. Can our lives be hidden?
- **Joshua 24:15-** Joshua challenged the people to follow his commitment and not serve the “god’s” of their culture.



What happens when we fit in?

It is very easy to see the clear teaching in scripture that God has always called His people to a different standard. A standard that sets us apart from the world. I believe it is healthy for us to ask the question, what happens if we ignore our calling to be different? What happens if we fit in?

- **The gospel doesn't spread:** How can we expect to “convert” the world to Christianity, if our lives look just like the world?
- **We fall into sin:** Simply stated, The world we live in is sinful. If we do not look different from them, we too are living in sin.
- **The church will suffer:** When Christians live like the world the church gets the reputation of being hypocrites, which will bring any hope of growth to a halt.
- **My children will not see Jesus:** I cannot build a family of faith if I model before my children a life that is just like the lives they see depicted around them.

Families of Faith

What can we do to stand out?

After we have seen what might happen if you and I refused our calling to a different standard, let us examine specifically some things that we can do that will make us stand out from the world.

- Determine that you will be more than an arm's length away from the world
- Go to pluggedin.com before watching any movie.
- Watch recorded programming in place of TV
- Have Family Devotionals (Deut 6)
- Spend time together doing service projects as a family.
- Determine that your family will not miss the assembly of the church when something "better" comes up.
- Determine that your family will be prepared to worship God, not just sit in a pew.
- Spend time talking with your children about what they are learning in school, help them see God through the lies.
- Have fun together as a family.



Discussion!

1. What things do you do in your family that is different from the world?
2. What ways can conforming negatively impact your family?
3. What are some safeguards we can put in place to make sure we stand apart from the world?
4. What works for your family, in regard to emphasizing spiritual things to your children?
5. Are children the only ones who face peer pressure?

"I would rather have my children grow up to be "weird" but go to heaven, than for them to be normal, and be lost eternally."