

# DO NOT CONFORM / *Romans 12:3*

What causes us to conform to the world's pattern?

- We believe that the world is more likely to allow us pleasure than God is.
- We find certain exhilaration in rushing along with the world.
- We are afraid of what might happen if we really think about life and change.
- We are crippled by pride or a negative self-image and believe there really isn't an alternative.
- We reject the life of service and humility necessary to conform ourselves to God's pattern.

Conforming to the world's pattern will involve the following way of thinking:

- We have a right to have all our desires fulfilled (see Romans 8:5; 1 Peter 4:3-4).
- We have a right to pursue and use power (see Mark 10:42-45).
- We have a right to abuse people (see Luke 11:43, 46-52).
- We have a right to accumulate wealth for purely selfish reasons (see Matthew 16:26).
- We have a right to use personal abilities and wisdom for self-advancement rather than for serving others (see 1 Corinthians 3:19).
- We have a right to ignore or even hate God (see James 4:4).