

Nonconformity To The Secular & The Process Of Secularization

by

Dan Gordon

at

Home Missionary Baptist Church

Nonconformity To The Secular and The Process Of Secularization

Copyright © 2017

by

**Dan Gordon
and
Home Missionary Baptist Church**

All right reserved

Taken from the transcription of

Sunday Worship Service
March 26, 2017

The audio recordings of these sermons can be obtained by
visiting:

<http://www.homebaptistchurch.org>

and click on Archives → Sermons tabs

INTRODUCTION



We all have read, referred to, and heard preaching from the verses of Romans 12:1-2, many times. Even though we are very well acquainted with these two verses, we must not confuse acquaintance with the real grasp and understanding, or even the practice, of what is being said. Romans 12:2, says, "*... be not conformed to this world.*"

In the chapters preceding Romans 12, Paul expounds on the mercies of God. It is because of God's mercies that we are here today. It is because of His mercies, that we have a King James BIBLE and have been placed in a New Testament Baptist Church. It's all due to the mercies of God. Everyday we wake in the midst of the mercies of God.

In Romans 12:1-2, there are two worldviews presented. There's the world, mentioned specifically, and there is God. These two world views are diametrically opposed. The current of the world is away from God. But Paul, beseeches us, because of the mercy of God, pleads for us to, "*Be not conformed to the world.*"

In this message, Pastor Gordon exposes how the world, in general, and we, as God's people, can be and have been influenced by the religion of secular humanism and the process of secularism that bombards us daily. It is everywhere in our post-Christian nation and the world. We are warned to, "Be not conformed!"

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

In Romans 12:1-2, the BIBLE says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

These verses, of course, are very familiar. We all have read them, heard them read, referred to, and heard them preached from many times. We are very well acquainted with these two verses. However, we must not confuse acquaintance with the real grasp and understanding, or even the practice of what is being said.

The danger of familiarity with these verses is that they be looked upon in a very superficial way. I believe they are many times. That results in us not giving due consideration to what is being said here. That leads to the failure to see the significance and the magnitude of what is being taught here, what is being commanded here. Our great need is for these words to press upon our hearts and to make a life changing impact in our lives.

In looking at these verses, it is important that we do not lose sight of to whom Paul is writing. He refers to them as "brethren". In Romans 1:6-7, he refers to them as, *"... the called of Jesus Christ,"* the, *"... beloved of God, called to be saints."*

Furthermore, it is equally important that we recognize the spirit in which Paul writes these words. We see that in Romans 1:7-11. Paul's "spirit" was one of love, of concern and a burden for their spiritual well being, his desire for them to be strengthened spiritually. With that spirit, he writes what we read in Romans 12:1-2.

It's important that we understand the structure of Romans' sixteen chapters. It consists, mainly, of two parts. Chapters 1 through 11 are mostly a doctrinal dissertation, the emphasis being upon the character of God and the blessings of salvation. That forms the foundation of Romans 12:1-2.

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

In Romans 12, there is a transition to the practical implications of the doctrines that were presented in chapters 1 through 11.

Looking at our text, it is also important that we recognize there are some specific duties or obligations that are being presented. “We **are not** to be conformed,” and “We **are** to be transformed.” Also notice, that these are personal duties and they are ongoing, continuous, and entire. They are to be done in a spirit of cheerfulness and a spirit of readiness. It is all to be unto God. Everything is to be moving in the direction of God. It is to be holy and acceptable. In order to be acceptable, it must be done as specified by God. It is a service and it is reasonable. It is a reasonable service.

In Romans 12:2, we also see that this service is a manifestation of the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. Additionally, none of these duties are an hour or two duty, a day or two duty, they are not sporadic. They are continuous and they are life long.

Notice the tone of the verses. Paul says, “I beseech you.” He was pleading. He *is* pleading, begging, fervently urging the called of Jesus Christ, the beloved of God, the called to be saints, to carry out some very specific duties and obligations. He is urging them to live a certain life, a very particular life. The fact that he is ***beseeching***, shows the urgency of the words. It also shows the importance and the consequence of the matter that he is speaking of.

I want to place the emphasis upon a command given by way of warning. In Romans 12:2, it says, “... *be not conformed to this world.*” The word “be” of course is a singular present tense verb stating a continuous state of being or an existence. In other words “be” not “being conformed” to this world. The word conformed simply means to comply. Do not comply to this world. The subject of this message is, ***“Nonconformity To The Secular And The Process Of Secularization.”*** We must not only ***not conform*** to the ***secular***, we must ***not conform*** to the ***process of***

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

secularization that is always taking place.

The basis of nonconformity, the rationale of it, the reason, the grounds, the motivation, is stated in Romans 12:1, "... *the mercies of God.*" We are not to conform because of the mercies of God. In chapters 1 through 11, Paul, in a very clear and precise manner, laid out the doctrine of God's plan of salvation. It is salvation by grace alone, apart from the works of man. In laying that out, he presented the truths of election, predestination, adoption into the family of God, atonement, reconciliation, regeneration, effectual calling, repentance, faith, the purpose and providence of God, provision and protection of the Lord, the unchanging love of God. These all fall under the heading of the mercies of God.

Paul, in Romans 11:33-36, having written of those mercies, leading into our text, says, "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever.*" That precedes our text. Paul is caught up, he's overflowing with praise for this plan of salvation, the mercies of God.

It is by the mercies of God, that God loved us unconditionally, that He determined to save our soul. He sent His son Jesus Christ to live a perfect life of righteousness on our behalf, and to go to the cross with all of our sins, to give His life in our place, paying a sin debt that you and I could *never* pay. Then, He would go to the grave. Christ would conquer, not only death, but He would conquer the grave by His resurrection. He did all of that before you and I were even born.

In time we were born. We were born into this world as guilty sinners before God, trapped in the depths of sin, the depth of defilement, and unrighteousness. We were guilty.

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

We were under the condemnation of God. We were alienated, estranged from God. We were living in darkness and at enmity to God, in rebellion against God. Spiritually bankrupt. Nevertheless, in the predetermined hour, Jesus Christ came where we were, raised us up, and set us free. That is the mercies of God.

It is because of those mercies, we have passed from death unto life. Our name is written in the Lamb's book of life. We are bought with the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law and from the power of darkness, having been set free from the clutches of sin and Satan, delivered from the wrath to come. *The mercies of God!*

Because of those mercies we have forgiveness of sins. We have been reconciled to God. We have peace with God. We are the children of God, heirs to God, joint heirs of Jesus Christ, inheritance reserved in heaven for us. All due to the mercies of God. We're rich. We are eternally secure, clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. By His mercies, I am allowed to have fellowship with the God of heaven, have access into the presence of God. His mercies!

It is because of His mercies that we are here today. It is because of His mercies, that we have a King James BIBLE and have been placed in a New Testament Baptist Church. It's all due to the mercies of God. Everyday we wake in the midst of the mercies of God. Everyday we can say with David, "... surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." We can say with Jeremiah, in Lamentations 3:22, *"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed."* It is the mercies of God that holds back from us the wrath that we deserve.

There is incentive in the mercies of God. Paul said, "I beseech you ... by the mercies of God." He says, my plea is not based upon my intellect, my charm or my charisma. It is not based on motivational words. My plea is this, "God has been merciful to you and therefore I beg you." Then he goes into what we read there in Romans 12:1-2. The

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

backdrop of Paul's plea is the mercy of God.

With that in mind, we come to a danger that we are to avoid. "Be not conformed to this world. Be not 'being conformed' to this world." Do not comply, adhere, accept, go along with, fall in line with this world. Do not yield or surrender to it. Be not conformed to this world. Why? Because God has been merciful to us.

We need to understand what is meant in those words "this world". Jesus, speaking of it in John 7:7, said, "*... me it hateth.*" This world hates Jesus Christ. "*... me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*" The world hates Christ. Be not conformed. Matthew 18:7, "*Woe unto the world because of offences!*" Peter in 2nd Peter 2:20, mentions the pollution of the world, the contamination, the toxins of the world. The world is a toxic place. It is toxic to spirituality. Be not conformed. John in 1st John 4:3, spoke of the spirit of Antichrist that is in this world. That means the world is opposed to and against Christ, is opposite of Christ, stands rival to Christ. The world is unlike Christ and ***militantly*** seeks to reverse and undo what Christ does. In 1st John 5:19, it says, "*... the whole world lieth in wickedness,*" vileness, and depravity. Oh, how we need to hear Paul, as he fervently pleads to God's people, "Be not conformed to this world."

The world is an order or an arrangement of life that is evil, that is satanically informed and ruled. Some child of God says, "Well, I disagree. I don't believe that the world in satanically informed and ruled." **You're already conformed, my friend. You're already there.** It is a kingdom of darkness. Oh, how we need to hear the plea. We need to hear the plea in the setting of God's mercy. "Be not conformed to this world."

The world is the pathway of the unsaved who know not God, of those who are walking in the darkness of their own fallen state. It is the life and activity as the result of the fall man. It is the sum total of the thinking, the ideas, philosophies, values, attitudes, ambitions, goals, pursuits,

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

behaviors of those who are alienated from God. Be not conformed to this world.

The world is the viewpoint of unsaved man, of those who are without God, those who are without Christ. It is their viewpoint of God. It is their viewpoint of man, of life. Do not be conformed to the world's viewpoint of God, of man, or life. Be not conformed. It's the viewpoint of those who's understanding has been darkened and who are spiritually dead. We need to hear the plea in the setting of God's mercy. Be not conformed to this world. It is a fervent plea for God's people.

Do not allow yourself at any time, in any situation, to be assimilated into the world system. Don't do that. Do not allow yourself to be drawn in by the system of the world. Do not allow yourself to be fashioned, molded, governed by the system of the world. Do not allow yourself to be stamped with the world's stamp. Do not allow your brain to be stamped with that stamp that says "World." Do not be conformed to this world. Paul is begging, he's pleading.

God warned the children of Israel about this very thing. In Leviticus 18:3-4. *"After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God."* In Deuteronomy 12:30, *"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them ..."* That thou be not entrapped by following them. Be not conformed to this world.

In Romans 12:1-2, there are two worldviews presented. There is the world, mentioned specifically, and there is God. These two world views that are diametrically opposed. The current of the world is away from God. The plea is, "Be not conformed to the world." Do not be moved away from the One, Who in grace and mercy, saved your soul. The world in all of it's wisdom, does not know, honor, admire, trust, nor seeks God. The pull of the world is in the

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

direction of the antithesis of the Lord and the will of God.

In 1st Corinthians 1:20, it says, "... *hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*" In verse 21, "... *the world by wisdom knew not God.*" The world, in all of it's wisdom, in all of it's academia, knows not God. Be not conformed to this world. Oh how we need to hear that plea in the setting of God's mercy.

Do not be mistaken, our nation, our society and culture is secular at its core. Our nation, our society, and our culture is almost entirely secular due to the process of secularization. This process has been going on for a long time. It is a calculated process by the enemies and haters of God. There is great danger for the child of God that we become a victim of the process of secularization.

We have to ask, what is secularization? It is the process of separating from the Lord, of separating from the BIBLE. Whether it be in your mind, your opinions, your attitudes, or the way you live, it is the process of separating from God and the BIBLE. Someone will say, "Well, give me your opinion. I don't want a BIBLE verse, just give me your opinion." That is dangerous. Secularization is the process of removing the influence of God and the BIBLE.

Secularization is the process of removing biblical faith, biblical morality, biblical values from the public arena. Basically, secularization is the process of de-christianization, doing away with Christianity. It is the process of moving from absolutes to relativism, moving from morality to immorality and amorality, [there is a difference between immorality and amorality], from the spiritual to the material. Secularization is the process of moving towards acceptance, tolerance, non-judgmentalism of what is *condemned* by God! Oh how we need to hear the plea in the setting of God's mercy. Be not conformed to the process of secularization.

The secularization of our nation, of our society, and our culture has been going on for a long time under the mask of, "*This is good for you. This is good for society. This is good for mankind. This is the progress of man's intellect.*" **I**

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

remind you, God hath made foolish the wisdom of this world. The world by wisdom knew not God, and knows not God. The process of secularization took place and is taking place in a very systematic way, with the incessant bombardment, the perverted narration, the pervasive lies, the control, and the manipulation of atheistic humanism, which attempts to function with the exclusion of God and His principles. Be not conformed.

The original "Humanist Manifesto" came out in 1933, and was updated in 1973. Humanism states, "We are convinced that time has passed for theism and deism." Be not conformed. Humanism is the religion of self. It states, "As non theists, we began with humans not God." That's disaster right there. "Nature not deity. Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses." With all their wisdom, they know not God. "And there is no substitute for the intelligence of man. We believe in individual autonomy." Independence.

Humanism is the religion of self. It's main doctrine is, "Believe in yourself." "Believe in yourself," has been proclaimed through Barney, Clifford, and on and on we can go. "Believe in yourself", has been proclaimed, preached, and flaunted in every area of life. Even so-call Christianity today is man centered. Arminianism is a form of humanism! ***Self!! The mega churches today, man centered!!*** "Believe in yourself" is the drumbeat of the day, the mantra of the day. It's every day, it's everywhere. Believe in yourself!

This is all carefully calculated by the God haters. Whether God's people know it or not, the God haters know that when man becomes the "be all" and "end all", then there is no objective standard. It all becomes subjective. A degenerate society and not God becomes the standard. We're there. That's where we are today. Humanism states, "Traditional moral codes fail to meet the pressing needs of today and tomorrow." ***Fail to meet the pressing needs!! Look around and see what their philosophy has done.*** Has it met the needs of mankind? You would have to be a

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

complete fool to believe it has, in any way.

Humanism states "Ethics are autonomous", that is they're separate from any standard. "Ethics are autonomous and situational, needing no theological sanction. Ethics stem from human need and interests." The vast majority of our population have lived their lives exposed to atheistic humanism, exposed to these teachings. [We have given the percentages in other writings, so we're not going to do that here.] The vast majority of our population have had their brain saturated with atheistic humanism, with the beliefs, convictions, and views of humanism, along with the feelings and attitudes of those who are offended and hostile towards God. The vast majority of our population has lived in a time when the word of God has been systematically removed from our national conscience. That's how the majority of our population has been influenced.

Do not kid yourself, we have degenerated into a Godless, secular society where the emphasis, the aim, the goal is self. The end result is there is lawlessness. Here is the prevalent thought and attitude of a secular society, "Well, if it's good for you, then it's legit. If it's good for you, it's OK. If it's good for you to fornicate, it's OK. If it's good for you to be involved in homosexuality, it's OK. I wouldn't, but who am I to judge?" That's the thought process of a secular society. Many of God's people have conformed to the process of secularization. How many times do you hear God's people, *with a BIBLE in their hand*, say, "Well who am I to judge?" **You're already conformed.** You're already there. You're just like them. It's all happened through a process. Oh how we need to hear this plea in the setting of God's mercy. "Be not conformed."

This whole religion of self results in "increased understanding." You ever notice that if you listen to people today, they're the most understanding people in the place, in the history of mankind. Religion of self. "We have understanding. We have sympathy." *Yes, they have understanding and sympathy for the sinful and abominable*

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

behaviors of man! What does that do? What does that understanding and sympathy lead to? *It leads to increased hostility toward God and God's people, who just do not understand.* That's where we are. Be not conformed to this world.

Today, humanism has become the norm. It's the norm to praise, revere, idolize, elevate, and celebrate the abominable, the offensive, and the repulsive. That's the norm today. That's entertainment today. Be not conformed.

Here we are in an immoral society and culture. By that we simply mean, behavior which is contrary to, "Thus saith the Lord." That's immorality. It's also an amoral society and culture, which is the result of the religion of self. It means there are no moral standards, restraints, and principles. This lack of standards is filling people with indifference and apathy concerning questions of right and wrong. "Who's to say what's right? Who's to say what's wrong?"

Almost everywhere you turn, it is the demonic, that which is demeaning to humanity, the blasphemous, and that which erodes biblical conviction. You don't have a chance in this world today, if you don't have biblical conviction. If you don't have conviction to, "Thus saith the Lord," you don't have a chance. You're going to be swallowed up in the devilish system of the world. You've got to have conviction about what the BIBLE teaches. Furthermore, even when you have conviction, you have to resist the influence of the whole process of secularization with every fiber of your being.

Most of God's people do not take this serious enough. The result of the secular and the process of secularization is the loss of reverence and the death of biblical reason, biblical discernment, the ability to separate error from truth, the loss of morality, decency, and shame. It's the 12:00 hour!

Today, Facebook is perhaps the clearest manifestation that there is no shame. *No shame even among God's people!* They'll put on Facebook what they did on the Lord's day rather than being in God's house. ***No shame!!*** We're in a

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

time of the religion of self. Did you ever think you'd see the day when, every ten minute, people are taking a picture of themselves and posting it, like everybody wants to see it. It's awful. It's a process of secularization, and we fall into it. We get up in the morning and what do we do? We grab our cell phone and we begin to look at this stuff. We're falling victim to the secularization process. I need to get back on track. Not that I was off track.

Secularization has caused great loss. There's the loss of definition of words. Words don't mean anything anymore. There's the loss of meaning in sexuality. It doesn't mean anything anymore. There's the loss of meaning of life, meaning in marriage, meaning in the home. There is a devaluation of life, the loss of fulfillment, the loss of happiness. The result is a nation, society, and culture spinning out of control, caught in a cycle of absolute insanity and destruction. A nation that is sinking in the depth of spiritual bankruptcy, surrounded on all sides by wickedness. Abomination, blasphemy, heresy, and dysfunction is everywhere. *Be not conformed to the process of secularization!*

As the wickedness of the times increases, the urgency to be what we ought to be increases. The urgency not to be conformed increases by the day. Be not conformed. Why? *Because God has saved your soul.* Be not conformed.

Be on guard, at all times, against the deceptions and perversions, that seek to lure, divert, cut off, hem in, and shackle us spiritually, disabling us from being able to live the life that we're called to live. Do you realize today that many are not even able to live the life that God has called them to live, because they have become a victim to the process of secularization.

Today the pattern of a secular world and the influence of the process of secularization is thrust upon us to a greater degree than ever before. From the time we get up in the morning to the time we go to bed, we are bombarded with the sounds and the visual images of both the secular and the

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

process of secularization. Whether it comes from the newspaper, radio, television, the internet, *background music*, magazine covers, billboards, etc., It's everywhere. We constantly need to hear this, "Be not conformed to this world."

The secular world and the process of secularization is not neutral. It doesn't just sit in a book in a library somewhere. Therefore, there must be continual resistance. Secularization is a deliberate, it is a calculated assault upon the minds of humanity as well as the minds of God's people. Be not conformed to this world.

We know it's true. Something begins to happen and we'll say it's a new sin, although there is no new sin. *God's people are so disturbed!* Give it five years. Everybody will calm down. Because of a process of what? Secularization. Everybody will just calm down and all of a sudden, "Well, I don't agree with it, but who am I to judge?" How sad! How very sad.

It is not our calling to fall in line with this world. That's not what we're here for. It's not our calling to harmonize and become compatible to secularism and the whole process. *We are here to bring glory to the One Who saved our soul.* We must not fall into the trance of a secular world or the process of secularization. It IS a trance. You fall into a trance and you shut your brain off. You can't afford to do that because of what's going on.

All of this results in the biblical worldview being diluted. You think about it, if your biblical worldview is diluted, have you not become secular? You have, to some degree. Our biblical worldview can not be diluted. You can't mix the world's view and a biblical view. You can't mix them. That's a dilution, a weakening. Our calling is, "Be not conformed to this world." When your teenager, grandson, granddaughter whoever, says, "Well you just don't understand," take it as a compliment. "Thank you, I appreciate your saying that. I take that as a compliment." I don't want to understand. ***I don't want to understand how***

BE NOT CONFORMED
TO THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

that which is abominable is OK!! I don't even want to begin to understand that. We must not have our view of life be diluted.

We must look at everything through what the BIBLE says, because, if we become conformed, we lose our identity as the people of God. Today, with most people that claim to be the people of God, there is no difference between them and the rest of the world. They have lost their identity. That results in a loss of testimony for God. You can not have a good testimony if you do not stand apart from the world. Loss of identity results in a loss of usefulness in God's service. Oh that today, in this year of 2017, we would hear this plea, "Be not conformed to this world." That, "Be not conformed to this world," would grip our hearts.

Somebody will say, "Well you think everything is wrong." No, I really don't. But I'd rather go there than the other way. If I have got to go too far either way, I'll go too far that way. But I'm here to tell you, I'm in no danger of going too far. I personally, am not in danger of going too far, in saying this is wrong, that is wrong. God help us not to be conformed to this world.

God help us to encourage each other not to be conformed to this world. When we see each other, perhaps beginning to think like the world, as kindly as we can, "Brother, Sister, better watch out. You're heading down a wrong road." God help us not to be conformed to this world.

What happens is our children become conformed, then our grandchildren become conformed, and we say, "Oh, they're so sweet." Don't fall for that. God help us. Oh, how we ought to thank God for those who are not conformed, and those who are using every fiber of their being resisting conformity to this world.