

NON CONFORMIST COURSE

(developed by Michel Larriveau MTh)

based on the 60 instructions in Romans 12 to 16

NOTES FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

Aim: 'to learn how to discern the will of God'

COURSE PLAN

sample below for preview

SESSION 1 - **non conformist**

for the rest of the course contact us

SESSION 2 - **no pride**

SESSION 3 - **no uselessness**

SESSION 4 - **no hypocrisy**

SESSION 5 - **no malice**

SESSION 6 - **no ill will**

SESSION 7 - **no baggage**

SESSION 8 - **no contempt no condemnation**

SESSION 9 - **no imposition**

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SESSION 1 - non conformist

Read Romans 12 verses 1 & 2

to start (note; questions in bold and [suggested answers in italics])

- note the word **'therefore'** which can also be translated 'in consequence' at the start of verse 1. **What does this mean ?**
[the following instructions are consequences of what has been said before]
 - **in consequence of what ?**
[Rom.11:30-36 mentions 'mercy' several times; this word also appears in Rom.12:1]
- Some **commentators suggest** that the whole passage from Romans 1 to 11 is an explanation of the mercy of God. Hence the phrase 'in view of God's mercy..'
- **what are the instructions in these verses ?**
['offer your bodies, 'do not conform', 'be transformed]
 - **are they linked to each other ?**
[yes! By the word 'and' (which in the original starts verse 2) and by the word 'but' in the middle of verse 2]
 - **give 3 words that this triple instruction could be summed up by**
[consecration / disconnection / transformation]

CONSECRATION

- **the choice of the word 'offer' implies what?**
[this is not automatic, needs consent and participation, a conscious act but not one to be repeated regularly (seen in the tense of the verb in the Greek original)]
- **why 'offer your bodies'?**
[see Rom.6:12-23]
- **the body, important or not?**
[described here as a 'living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God' and also 'spiritual worship'; (see also 1 Cor.6:18-20 & 12:12-27, Col.2:23, 1 Thess.4:4 & 5:23)]

DISCONNECTION

- **'do not conform' = ?**
[= don't copy, assimilate, adapt to, be reconciled with, accommodate]
- **'to the pattern of this world' - what does this mean?**
[3 words are used in the new testament translated as 'world' with different meanings according to the context : the earth, human beings, human moral values; see Colossians 2:8 (and here in verse 2 of Rom 12), Acts 17:24, John 3:16]

TRANSFORMATION

- **'but be transformed' = ?**
[= not just to be different, automatically doing the opposite to others in everything] [the same word is used in Matt 17:1-3]
- **by what means ?**
[see 1 Pet.1:13-16, Mark 7:1-23, Eph.4:17-24, John 16:5-15, Eph.4:21-24, 2 Tim.3:16]

to sum up: Actions to take

- always wanting to discern and to do God's will (end of verse 2)
- 1. in accepting that our bodies are instruments of divine will
- 2. in accepting that we may have to be different from the people around us
- 3. in accepting the influence of the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Bible.