

NON CONFORMIST COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

based on the 60 instructions in Romans 12 to 16

NOTES FOR INDIVIDUALS

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 and 2

to start

- what are the instructions in these verses ?

(choose 3)

1. 'offer your bodies',
2. 'your spiritual worship'
3. 'do not conform'
4. 'be transformed'
5. 'test and approve what God's will is'

- are they linked to each other ?

yes ! by the word 'and' (in the original text at the start of v. 2)

and by which other word in verse 2 ?

Is it 'but' ? ou 'by' ? ou 'so that' ?

- Can these verses become a triple instruction which, put simply would be 'offer your bodies and do not conform but be transformed' ?

I agree ! maybe ! I disagree !

- note the word 'therefore' which can also be translated as 'in consequence' at the start of verse 1

- what does it mean ? (choose correct answers)

- a. the triple instruction is connected
- b. the triple instruction is a reason
- c. the triple instruction is a consequence of what precedes it

- consequence of what ?

Rom.11:30-36 mentions 'mercy' several times ; this word also appears in Rom.12:1.

- commentators suggest that the whole of Romans chapters 1 to 11 is an explanation of God's mercy: if time allows, it is a good idea to read all these chapters in one go and note down the different types of mercy that God gives

- 'to see and to recognise the mercies of God is what motivates us to put the triple instruction into practice and not the other way round'

True or False ?

CONSECRATION

- The choice of the word 'offer' implies what?

is it automatic or not?

needs our consent or not ?

requires our participation or not ?

a conscious act or not ?

not repeated on a regular basis (this is shown by the tense used in the original Greek text)

- Why 'offer your bodies' ?

see Rom.6 :12-23

- is 'the body' important or not ?

It's 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'** = ?

Do the following words all have the same meaning ?

Do not copy

Do not assimilate

Do not adapt

Do not reconcile (make possible)

Do not accommodate

Do not be different

- **'the pattern of this world'** means what ?

*3 words are used in the New Testament to translate to the word 'world' which mean different things according to their context;
the earth, human beings, moral human values*

Which is the correct meaning in the following references;

Colossians 2:8 (and here in verse 2 of Rom.12) = ?

Act.17:24 = ?

Jean 3:16 = ?

TRANSFORMATION

- **'but be transformed'** = *being different by automatically and indiscriminately doing things differently to everyone else*

True or False ?

- **what is the 'impression' given here ?**

What does the use of the word 'but', indicate?

'transformed', same word is used in Matt.17:1-3 9 for the 'transfiguration' of Jesus

- **is God only expecting a minor change in us ?**

- **and by what means will change occur ?**

Is it by following...

a. a list of rules and regulations coming from ourselves ?

see 1 Peter 1:13-16

b. religious traditions ? see Mark 7:1-23

c. the world around us? see Eph.4:17-24

or by...

d. the renewing of our minds = our way of thinking, according to the truth of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures ?

see John 16:5-15, Eph.4:21-24, 2 Tim.3:16

to conclude: Actions to take

- always want to find out and do the will of God (end of verse 2)

1. accept that our bodies are instruments for the will of God

2. accept that we will be different from those around us

3. accept the influence of the Holy Spirit on our lives and the truth of the Bible