

NON CONFORMIST COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

based on the 60 instructions in Romans 12 to 16

NOTES FOR PREACHERS

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 the word '**therefore**' which can also be translated 'in consequence' at the start of verse 1. **This means that the following instructions are consequences of what has just 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..'
- **the instructions in these verses are**
 1. 'offer your bodies,
 2. 'do not conform',
 3. 'be transformed
- **they are linked to each other** by the word 'and' (which in the original starts verse 2) and by the word 'but' in the middle of verse 2
- **this triple instruction could be summed up in 3 words =**
[consecration / disconnection / transformation]

CONSECRATION

- **the choice of the word 'offer' implies that** 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

CONSECRATION (continued)

- **the body is important to God as** it is 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' means** = don't copy, assimilate, adapt to, conciliate, 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' by 'the renewing of the mind'** = not just to be different, automatically doing the opposite to others in everything but an interior radical transformation (our way of thinking) [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.