



Not Conforming to This World

St. Paul would not be considered a champion of women's causes by any stretch of the imagination, but he did make some huge contributions to other causes that lie at the core of Christian faith—spirituality being one. My favorite quote is recorded in Romans 12:2.

“Conform not to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God.”

Discerning and pursuing the will of God is a primary function of our faith. What would God have me do with my life? That is the constant imperative that should shape everything in our lives. We have been put on this earth for that purpose—to please God by pursuing his will for us in everything we do, say and think. That is why we are linked to the very heart of God.

Everything else in our lives is to be shaped and carried out in such a way that God's will is the main directive. “. . . *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*” The bar is quite high.

The fantastic part of this spiritual orientation to all of life is that when we live *not conforming to this world* but by the paradigm of *conforming to God's will*, our own experience becomes more joyful and fulfilling. That is the big surprise. Things fit together the way they are designed.

Any craftsman/woman would be quite clear about having the correct tools that are designed to fit a particular type of job. If we attempt a project without the proper tools the job can be hopelessly difficult and perhaps unsatisfactorily completed. However, with the properly designed tools the process is more comfortable and the outcome more satisfying.

So with living our lives as they are designed to be lived—by living according to His will. How do we accomplish this? St. Paul gives us the blue print and tools along with the admonition.

“Conform not to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.”

Transformation is the requisite. That can occur only by the Holy Spirit. We cannot do that by ourselves. By allowing ourselves to be *transformed*, which is a life-long process, we not only please God, and fulfill our reason for being, but we invite true joy into our own lives. Joy is God's special gift and it comes to us whenever we pursue the Will of the Holy One.

