

Family TableTalk

Conversation 107

Don't Be Like Everyone Else

read

Romans 12:1-2

think

When I was in middle school, I was not the popular kid. I wore glasses, had no clue what to do with my curly, frizzy hair, and got made fun of for being the “teacher’s pet.” Those days were really hard because I just wanted to fit in and be like everyone else. What I didn’t realize at the time was that God was preparing me for times in my Christian walk where I wasn’t going to fit in with everyone else – and that is a good thing. God doesn’t want us to be like everyone else,

he wants us to be like Jesus.

In his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urges Christians to do two things. The first is to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Romans 12:1, ESV). What does this mean? Pastor Tim Keller describes it this way: “To be a ‘living sacrifice’ is to be fully at God’s disposal. It means actively, to be willing to obey God in anything he says in any area of life; and, passively, to be willing to thank God for anything he sends in any area of life.” If you are a believer, you have been saved by God, for God.

Second, Paul says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Romans 12:2, ESV). The trends of this world come and go. Instead of trying to be just like everyone else, we are to be totally transformed, from the inside out, to become more and more like Christ. Paul says this starts with renewing our minds. The renewing of our minds is not just about knowing what the Bible says, it is about living as Christ would in light of those truths. It is only when our minds have been renewed that we can discern what is good, what is pleasing, and what is perfect according to God allowing us to live in accordance with his will. If we are living totally transformed and in accordance with God’s will, we can be sure that we won’t be like everyone else – praise God!

apply

- What would it look like for your family to be “fully at God’s disposal”?
- What are some areas of your life where you are tempted to be just like everyone else? Why do you think that is? How can you work on overcoming that temptation?
- Our minds need constant renewing so that we can be transformed from the inside out. What is one way you could intentionally reorient your mind toward Christ this week?
- How can we as a family support and encourage each other to live out Romans 12:1-2?

pray

Heavenly Father, we confess that we are often more concerned with who the world wants us to be rather than who you’ve created us to be. Guide us as we seek to offer our lives as living sacrifices and to be fully obedient to whatever your will is for our lives. Holy Spirit, renew our minds each day by your Word, so that we can be transformed into the image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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