

Refusing to Be Conformed to the Pattern of This World

by A.W. Tozer

The Church must maintain her distinctiveness and not conform to the world in order to be respected and followed.

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 6:17, Galatians 1:10, Ephesians 4:22-24, Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:2, James 4:4, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 John 2:15-17

Topics: "Transformation", "Christian Distinction"

Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the necessity for the Church to remain distinct from the world to maintain its respect and influence. He argues that true transformation in individuals often requires a radical change, which is more compelling than a comfortable, easy path. Tozer warns that any conformity to worldly standards undermines Christian identity and dilutes the message of the Gospel. He asserts that genuine seekers of truth will reject superficial religion that does not demand change, as they recognize the need for a deeper, authentic faith. Ultimately, the Church's difference is what draws people to Christ and fosters true spiritual growth.

Transcript

Men are impressed with the message of the Church just as far and as long as she is different from themselves. When she seeks to be like them they no longer respect her. They believe (and rightly) that she is playing false to herself and to them. The moral jar that results when an indoctrinated son of Adam meets a son of heaven is one of the most wholesome things that can happen to both of them. And contrary to common opinion, men are more inclined to follow the way of Christ when they are compelled to make a radical alteration in their lives than they are when the way is made easy for them.

The human heart senses its need to be changed, and when religion appears offering life without such change, it is not taken seriously by thinking men.

The superficial, the insincere, may embrace such a low-powered brand of religion, but the seeking heart must reject it as false and unreal. All conformity to the world is a negation of our Christian character and a surrender of our heavenly position.

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