

**Be Not  
Conformed,  
But Transformed!**

**2011 Northeast F.C. Camp**

*Be not Conformed, but Transformed*

## Lesson 1 – Not Conformed as a Taker, Transformed into a Giver, part 1

**Intro.** Everyone can be placed into one of two categories: **Givers and Takers**

A. Givers are those who realize happiness comes through serving others, giving.

1. Giving not just money or gifts, but time, energy, attention.

B. Takers: Life dedicated to taking. They want to get something for nothing. They love the lottery!

C. Clarifications

1. Takers may give gifts, but it's done out of a sense of obligation or maybe trying to get something in return.

\* **Thought question** – Have you ever given a gift not because you wanted to but because you felt obligated?

2. Givers will receive gifts. It's not wrong to receive.

3. We're talking about general concept of what makes us happy-- giving or taking?

D. There May be percentages involved:

1. No man living today is 100% giver. All have to fight that little bit of taker in us. (Jesus is the exception of course!)

2. Even those who are primarily takers may be touched occasionally with the desire to give.

3. Generally, however, there are no 50/50s. Most are primarily givers or primarily takers.

E. Thought questions:

1. Do you think most Americans are primarily givers or primarily takers?

Would you give an estimate of the percentage of givers and percentage of takers in your school or community? \_\_\_\_\_% givers \_\_\_\_\_% takers.

2. What are some influences in our American culture that tend to turn young people into takers? Write some down and discuss?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which one of the above might affect you negatively the most?

4. Be honest – Answer to yourself – Do you think you're primarily a giver or primarily a taker?

\* An honest answer is a key to making needed changes.

**I. God wants us to be givers!** Read the following verses and answer the questions

A. Verses

1. Prov. 11:25 - Who will be "watered"? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Prov. 22:9 - Who will be blessed and why? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Luke 6:38 - What will be the result of giving? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Acts 20:35 - What is more blessed than receiving? \_\_\_\_\_

5. 1 Tim. 6:18 – What three things are the rich told to do? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Heb. 13:16 – What two things please God? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Every command in the Bible to love others is a command to be a giver.

1. Love is concern for well being of others: That is the giver spirit, not taker

2. Read the description of one who loves: I Corinthians 13:4-7

3. In which of these 15 qualities of love do you think you might be strongest? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In which one might you be weakest? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Examples in the Bible

A. Givers in the Bible:

1. Read Luke 10:25-37

a. What are the two greatest commandments? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What in verse 29 lets you know that Jesus' questioner was probably a taker?

c. Who is the giver in the story of verses 30-35 and why? \_\_\_\_\_

d. **Thought** - What excuses could the Samaritan have given not to help?

e. **Thought** – How quick are you to help unpopular companions? How quick are you to leave your group at services to talk to visitors to services or someone who isn't popular?

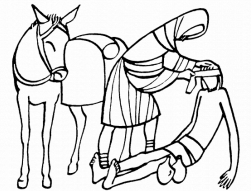
2. The best example – Jesus – Read Matthew 20:25-28 with emphasis on 28.

a. Why did Jesus **not** come to earth? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why did he come? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What did he give according to John 10:11? \_\_\_\_\_

d. **Thought** - Why is it so difficult to comprehend how much of a giver Jesus is?



3. If you know something about the Bible, make a list of Bible characters that were primarily givers. Talk about why they were givers.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

B. Takers in the Bible

1. Jacob - Read Genesis 25:29-34
  - a. What in this story indicates that Jacob was a taker?
  - b. If you know something about his later life, what are some other things about it that indicated that he was a taker, especially as a youth? Did he later suffer at the hands of another taker (his father-in-law)?
    - \* Do takers usually end up suffering at the hands of other takers?
  - c. Didn't Jacob become good in some respects later in life? (Heb. 11:21)
  - d. What are some things that might have helped Jacob become less of a taker later on?
  - d. Can takers fight with their selfishness and eventually become more giving?
2. If you know something about the Bible, make a list of Bible characters that were primarily takers. Talk about why they were takers.

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Be Honest - Test Yourself** (Underline or circle the closest answer to the truth. You can go over this in class if you have time. If not, do in your cabin. Tomorrow lesson discusses some of these issues further.)

**1. How much do you complain and whine when things don't go your way?** (0) All the time (1) A lot (2) sometimes (3) rarely (4) never

**2. If someone asks you to help clean the kitchen after a meal what do you do?** (0) Argue (1) Hide (2) Do the work but with a bad attitude (3) Try to do the work cheerfully (4) I don't have to be asked, I volunteer to do the work.

**3. If someone at camp asks a group to help clean up garbage or the lunchroom what do you do?** (0) I'm the one that throws the candy papers and garbage on the ground. (0) Get mad, after all we're here to have fun, not work. (1) Try to slink away without being noticed (2) Do the work but grumble a little about it. (3) Try to do it. (4) I pick up garbage without anyone asking me.

**4. What is your attitude about the brand of sneakers or name brand clothing?** (0) Have to have Nike, Puma or one of the major brand sneakers (or Levis, Diesels or Calvin Kleins jeans) well over \$100 or I "throw a fit." Would never wear Sketchers or Walmart brands. (1) Have to have the popular brands or I feel insecure. (2) Would feel more secure with popular brands, but can live without them. (4) I don't care. My security doesn't depend on popular name brand sneakers or clothing.



**5. How often have you sent a thank you note by hand, phone call, text, email or on Facebook?** (0) Never (1) Maybe once or twice (2) Occasionally (3) Most of the time, but maybe I forget sometimes (4) I make it a priority to always thank others.

**6. If you say or do something that offends others, how quick are you to apologize to them?** (0) I don't, it's too humiliating! (1) If someone forces me to I will reluctantly (2) With some pressure, I'll probably eventually apologize. (3) Most of the time (4) All the time.

**7. How quick are you to blame others (your parents, siblings, brethren, teammates, schoolmates, etc.) for problems?** (0) All the time (1) A lot (2) sometimes (3) rarely (4) never

**8. How much do you let little aggravations get to you and you make a big deal about them and rebuke others?** (0) All the time (1) A lot (2) sometimes (3) rarely (4) never

**9. Do you sometimes feel jealous when a companion is praised for something, or gets a boyfriend or girlfriend that you like?** (0) It makes me seethe (furious) and want to put them in their place. (1) I get somewhat angry (2) It makes me feel unappreciated but I try to get over it. (3) I suppose I sometimes feel a twinge of feeling unappreciated but when I work at it a little I soon get over it. (4) It doesn't bother me at all but makes me happy for them.

**10. How much time do you spend worrying about yourself and how much time do you spend trying to help others?** (0) 100% concerned about self, 0% others (1) 90% self, 10% others (2) 80% self, 20% others (3) I'm really trying to make an effort to improve (4) I'm totally unconcerned about self, 100% giving.

**Results** – Add up the points that go with what you've underlined or circled

38-40 – Liar, liar pants on fire

30-37 – You're either very much a giver (congratulations!) or more probably, not honest with yourself.

20-30 – OK, you're probably honest which is good, but hope you see areas of needed improvement

12-19 – I appreciate your honesty but as you can see, lots of work to be done!

0-11 – You're either too hard on yourself or we need to kick you out of camp. Probably the former.

*Be not Conformed, but Transformed*

## Lesson 2 – Not Conformed as a Taker, Transformed into a Giver, Part 2

**Intro.** Quick review of lesson 1. Define again “givers” and “takers”

**I. A Few Obvious Signs of “takerism”** (Look at the following qualities and analyze yourself.)

**A. Constant complaining and whining**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:9,10; Numbers 14:1-4; 27-32

- Thought** - Why were the children of Israel wrong to complain?
- What did God determine to do because of their complaining?

2. **Thought questions**

- What makes you whine and complain most? Little aggravations or big problems? Not getting your way? Late supper? Aggravating siblings?
- What about a complaining, whiney person indicates that he is a taker?
- Which of the following do think is most absurd to complain about? Politics, food, lack of sleep, camp facilities, rules at camp, the brethren at church, etc.  
\* Which type of complaining tempts you the most?
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 Always complaining, 10 never complains), how are you about whining and complaining? \_\_\_\_\_
- What steps can you take to do better?



**B. Avoidance of work and responsibility**

1. Read Proverbs 26:13,14

- What excuse did the lazy man give not to work? \_\_\_\_\_
- Thought** – What are some irrational reasons people give to avoid work today?

2. On a scale of 1-10, How willing are you to work at camp? \_\_\_\_\_ At home? \_\_\_\_\_ Be honest!

3. Why do some people want others to do all the work to clean, provide for the family, teach others, etc.? Why is this so unattractive?

\* Hint – If you’re “checking out” (in a nice way!) those of the opposite sex, why is it good for your future happiness to give priority to those who like to work & are constantly volunteering to help while you steer clear of those who try to hide or slink away when it’s time for chores?

4. What are some things you can do now to develop a good work ethic?

**C. Ingratitude**

1. Read Luke 17:12-19

- Thought question** - Why do the nine ungrateful lepers look so bad in this story?

2. Make a list of some people you should be willing to thank

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

a. How much do you thank these people? (a) Often, (b) occasionally, (c) seldom, (d) never.

3. **Thought question** – Why do takers seldom thank others?

**D. Inability to admit faults and confess (It’s always somebody else’s fault!)**

1. Read Genesis 3:12,13

- According to Adam, who’s fault was it that he sinned? \_\_\_\_\_
- According to Eve, who’s fault was it? \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Thought** - Why do takers always like to blame others for problems?

**E. Jealousy**

1. Read Proverbs 14:30 – What is envy called? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Thought question: Arrange the following in the order of which are more likely to have a problem with jealousy and envy? (1) Little children? (2) Teenage girls? (3) “Macho” guys, (4) Old people, (5) Parents (I think I have a tie for the top two in my list.) Why do you think the list is this way?

\* Is there anything less attractive than a jealous “taker” teenage girl?

**F. “It’s all about me”** (Love “does not seek its own” – 1 Cor. 13:5)

1. Some people always want to talk about themselves and be the center of attention. They’re takers.

- I remember one person who was very happy if he was the center of the conversation. However, if the conversation turned to something else or someone else, he would get fidgety and finally get up and leave the room.

2. Thought question – Can your Facebook page (if you have one) reflect whether you’re self centered or not? How?

3. What are some other signs that people think “it’s all about them.” Write a list and discuss.

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

\* Be honest – Have you ever seen some of these signs in your own life?

4. Thought – What can you do to change your perspective and realize that “it’s not all about you.”

## II Areas where we need to work on a giving spirit (Lots of thought questions below. Teachers direct the discussion)

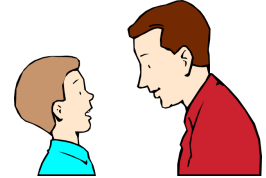
### A. Camp

1. In your opinion, which of the following 3 most indicates a “taker spirit” at camp? Add your own.
  - a. Talking and giggling at 1 AM when everyone else is trying to sleep.
  - b. Tossing garbage on the ground.
  - c. Trying to avoid chores
  - d. Add yours

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In your opinion, which of the following 3 most indicates a “giver spirit” at camp? Add your own.
  - a. Leaving “your crowd” to talk to shy new campers and help them feel at home.
  - b. Paying special attention to younger campers (10-12 year olds).
  - c. Volunteering to help clean up the mess in the bathroom.
  - d. Add yours

\_\_\_\_\_



### B. With our parents (Ephesians 6:1,2)

#### Thought question:

1. Be honest! Do you have a giving or taking spirit with regards to your parents/guardians?
  - a. Of course, by nature we receive a lot from our parents, but we’re not talking here so much about items received but our attitude. Do we want to take advantage of our parents? Manipulate them for our own selfish interests?
2. Why might it be easier to have more of a taking spirit with regards to our parents than others?
3. What are some ways we are most tempted to show the taker spirit with our parents?

4. What do you think you can do to be less of a taker and show more appreciation for your parents?

### C. In our boy/girl relationships

#### Thought questions

1. Have you observed someone else’s boyfriend or girlfriend who is a taker?
2. What are some qualities that indicate that boyfriend or girlfriend may be a taker?

3. Be honest – have you ever shown any of these qualities in your own efforts to have a boyfriend or girlfriend?
4. Do younger teens (and older ones as well!) often want to have a boyfriend/girlfriend for selfish reasons? For example, what kind of selfish reasons? Discuss
- \* **Advice** – Don’t rush to have a boyfriend or girlfriend! Be confident of who you are in God’s sight without one! Only move to this stage in life when you are very mature, enough to look upon it as a giving relationship and not a taking one.
- \* **Even more important advice** – If you realize that your boyfriend or girlfriend is primarily a taker, **drop them like a hot potato!** (But do it in a loving way!)

### D. In the church

- \* Every congregation usually has its givers and takers. The takers whine about not getting enough attention, the sermon being too long and why everyone else is a hypocrite. Givers are too busy trying to serve others and God to whine.
- \* Discuss briefly some ones you can be more of a giver in your congregation

### E. With God

1. In the sense of blessings received, we are all “takers” in our relationship with God.
2. Understanding that we constantly receive from God, How is it possible to have a taker attitude towards him in the sense of only wanting to receive without giving him any love or time?
3. What is some good spiritual medicine to help us fight spiritual “takerism” with respect to our relationship with God.

Concl. We live in a “taker” world. We must not be conformed to it, but imitate God and becoming giving!

*Be not Conformed, but Transformed*

## **Lesson 3 – Not Conformed To Faddish Philosophies, Transformed by Trust in God’s Eternal Truths**

### **I. Analyzing Text: Read - Colossians 2:8-10**

A. Answer questions from the text

1. What should we be careful that no one does to us with philosophy or empty deception? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Read various translations if you have them
  - b. Thought – Why is the idea of being “taken captive” by worldly philosophies appropriate?
  - c. Have you ever known of anyone who has drifted away from God because they hang out with people who believed in worldly philosophies at the university, work? How are they similar to “captives?”
  - d. Thought - Why do you think the deceit of philosophy is called empty?
2. According to the last part of verse 8, On what two things does worldly philosophy depend on instead of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In whom did the fullness of deity reside in bodily form? \_\_\_\_\_
  - \* Do we need to know any philosophies to know God or just know Christ?
4. According to verse 10, What do we have in Christ? Or, What have we been made in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Look at some different versions)
5. What has been given to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
  - \* We don’t need worldly philosophies! We have all we need in Christ!

B. What were some philosophies that threatened early Christians?

1. Jewish mysticism – lots of rules and regulations, asceticism (it’s good to deny your body of necessities [Read verses 20-23 later in chapter 2]).
2. Popular Greek philosophy – Hundreds of “gods.” Denied resurrection, angelic beings, emphasized worldly education, etc.
3. Gnosticism – Remember last year’s study of John’s letters?
  - a. Several brands of gnosticism seemed to mix Jewish elements with Greek philosophy
  - b. Verses 20-23 seem to describe a kind of mixed Jewish-Gnostic type of philosophy.

### **II. Some Popular Modern Philosophies That are Harmful and that Can Subtly Affect our Faith**

\* We’ll discuss a few of dozens that will affect your college professors and teachers. They often overlap.

A. **Existentialism** – According to Miriam Webster Dictionary it deals with “the plight of the individual who must assume ultimate responsibility for his acts of free will *without any certain knowledge of what is right or wrong or good or bad.*”

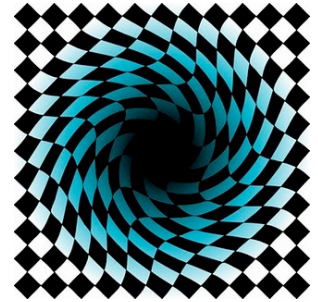
1. It says that what we see here and now is all there is. We determine what is right and wrong based on our own personal experiences. There is no absolute truth!
  - a. Can you think of someone in the Bible who doubted there was such thing as truth? (If you can’t, look at John 18:38) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Concepts of those affected by Existentialism
  - a. “That might be right for you but not for me.”
  - b. “You determine what is right for you.”
  - c. “If it feels right, do it!”
  - d. “One man’s opinion is as good as another’s.”
3. You have seen its influence! Think about the following...
  - a. How will people react if you quote the Bible to show that homosexuality is wrong? What will they say? Who do they think should determine whether it’s right or wrong?
4. Spiritual problems with existentialism – the Bible teaches that God, not our experiences nor science, teach us what is right and wrong. God’s word is absolute truth.
  - a. What is truth? (John 17:17) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What would Jesus guide the apostles to? (John 16:13)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What can God not do? (Titus 1:2) \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. If God says that homosexuality is wrong and He cannot lie, what does that mean about the rightness or wrongness of homosexuality?
5. Moral problems with existentialism- People who say there is no God, no absolute truth need to be challenged with questions such as the following. Add your own.
  - a. Adolph Hitler thought he was ridding the world of evil when killing off Jews and others he considered undesirable. If there is no absolute truth and “one man’s opinion is as good as another,” who can say he was wrong?



- b. If you reject the Bible as the standard of absolute truth, what do you replace it with?
  - c. If there is no absolute truth, no universal Judge, what would morally keep me from knocking you in the head and taking all your money if I think I need it more than you?
  - d. Can you think of any other similar questions that show moral problems with existentialism?
- 
- 

**B. Postmodernism** – Related to existentialism in that it emphasizes that there is no absolute truth.

1. Rationalism (popular in late 1800's and early 1900's) emphasized science as the key to improving man and that human reasoning could help man without God or His revelation. Many rationalists thought that science could solve most of the world's problems. Many could have been called "modernists."
2. Postmodernism is a kind of rebellion against rationalism. It has become obvious that science or human reasoning hasn't solved the world's problems, neither will it. This is perhaps a good aspect of the postmodern way of thinking. But there is so much bad in it.
3. Key concepts in postmodernism
  - a. Truth is whatever you feel it to be. (A lot of emphasis on feelings. Reason de-emphasized.)
  - b. Pluralism – All religions are equally good (Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.)
    - i. It is considered very disrespectful to say that one religion is superior.
4. Postmodernism has affected many religious groups, including churches of Christ
  - a. Feelings are emphasized more than analyzing scripture.
  - b. It's stated that we really can't analyze the scripture with our reason. It's too confusing.
    - i. There is a lot of criticism of what is called "Baconian hermeneutics." This has nothing to do with breakfast, but with the ideas of a man named Francis Bacon who emphasized using reason to determine truth.
  - c. Entertainment oriented worship is becoming very popular in some churches of Christ.
5. Bible texts
  - a. John 14:6 – Is there any way we can know God without Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Ephesians 3:3,4 – Can we understand with our reason Paul's writing about the mystery of Christ? \_\_\_\_ (Of course, according to Peter there are some things difficult to understand [2 Peter 3:15,16] and we need to be humble about forcing our interpretations. But, God's message can generally be understood from the scriptures according to Paul!)
  - c. Judges 21:25 seems to describe Postmodernism. On what basis did Israelites in the time of the judges act? \_\_\_\_\_ Thought – How did that work for them?



**Conclusion** – Worldly philosophies come and go. Some Greek philosophies (and gnosticism) seem really weird now and yet in their times they were in style. People who opposed them were looked upon as ignoramuses. The same will be true of many modern philosophies. Modernism and Rationalism are already "out." One day the same will be true of Existentialism, Postmodernism and perhaps Feminism.

A. Read Matthew 24:35. What would never pass away? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Jesus is talking specifically of his prophesies about Jerusalem, but the principle applies to all his teaching.

B. Have a prayer for strength to avoid being influenced by the shallow worldly philosophies of our friends, professors and other acquaintances. Pray for those already completely contaminated with them.

*Be not Conformed, but Transformed*

**Lesson 4 - Not conformed with our shallow celebrity, entertainment-obsessed culture, but transformed into a life of holiness.**

Intro.

A. Hedonism – The philosophy that all that matters in life is pleasure and fun

1. What did the rich fool of Luke 12:19 say that he would do when considering his riches? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Problems with Hedonism

a. What was wrong with the rich man's attitude in Luke 12:19? (read verse 20) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Fun does not equal satisfaction. Write down a list of "celebrities" who have a lot of fun, but who are obviously messed up and miserable in their lives.

c. Long-term blessings come from self control – See thought illustration "B" below

3. A proper concept (Read Eccl. 11:9)

a. Is youthful enjoyment wrong in and of itself? \_\_\_\_\_

b. But, according to the last part of the verse, what must we remember about the consequences of certain types of youthful activities? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought illustration - To be free to drive a car, what control is needed besides the accelerator? How long will someone be free to drive a car if they take the brake pedal out of the car and only leave an accelerator in?

1. Do people who throw away their moral brakes really have the freedom to have good lives?

**I. Our celebrity, entertainment culture compares to ancient Roman Culture in the time of Jesus**

A. Obsession with entertainment – "The Roman citizen's heart was not in the home, but in the Coliseum, the bathhouse, and the theater. They lived for entertainment. Plays, music, art, and literature – the Romans were intoxicated with entertaining themselves. Gladiators provided violent entertainment in the Coliseum." (Patrick Jonston)

1. Thought questions – What are some things that indicate obsession with entertainment in our own culture? How has family life suffered because of this obsession?

B. Violence – "When the Romans went to the circus to watch the games, it was to view a brutal spectacle. Chariot racing was perhaps the least murderous event - although many drivers were hurt in spectacular crashes. But for more gruesome entertainment the Romans watched wild beasts tear each other apart, or gladiators fighting exotic beasts from far away countries, or gladiators fighting each other to the death." (www.roman-empire.net)

1. Thought questions –

a. Why can obsession with violence indicate a twisted concept of man as a creation of God?

b. Which of the following sources do you think contribute most to the growing obsession with violence: (1) Movies, (2) Television, (3) Video Games, (4) WWF, (5) UFC (6) Other?

C. Adulation of celebrity "The games were so popular that successful gladiators could become extremely rich and very famous. As a result, while most gladiators were condemned criminals, slaves or prisoners of war, some were freedmen who chose to fight, either as a way to achieve fame and fortune, or simply because they enjoyed it."

1. Gaius Appuleius Diocles (chariot driver) was the best paid athlete of all time. If we were to translate his winnings into today's currency, this one man would have been paid approximately \$15 Billion dollars. (<http://socyberty.com>)

2. "Marcus Aurelius Asklepiades, who was part wrestler part boxer, has been described as the ancient world's David Beckham." (<http://socyberty.com>)

3. Thought questions

a. How important are Gaius Appuleius Diocles or Marcus Aurelius Asklepiades today? But, how important is Jesus Christ today?

c. How important are Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Britney Spears, Taylor Swift, Oprah Winfrey and Ashton Kutcher in the great scheme of life? How lasting will their influence be?

i. Does anyone remember the Jonas brothers? Anyone know who "Menudo" is/was?

d. And yet, how much time do most people spend pursuing these people in comparison to pursuing Christ?





- e. Is it sinful in and of itself to listen to Justin Bieber? Thoughts below on when interest in celebrities ceases to be an innocent hobby and becomes an unhealthy influence.
- D. Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, has attributed the fall of the Empire to:
1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
  2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
  3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
  4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
  5. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people. (www.pbs.org)
- \* Thought question – Does this remind you of the United States today?
- D. How did Jesus, the apostles and early Christians confront the entertainment crazed Roman world?
1. Paul and the writer of Hebrews used training for athletic contests as illustrations.
  2. However, generally such things were considered “of the world.”
  3. Read 1 John 2:15-17
    - a. What are we not to do with the world? \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. If we love the world, what is not in us? \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. What happens to the world and its lusts? \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. What about the man who does the will of God? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Our biggest temptation –

- A. None here probably want to be wild, unrestrained hedonists! We know that is an empty, wasted life.
1. Our danger is that we may want to “flirt” with our entertainment obsessed world, get close to the line with sinful practices. That’s impossible!
- B. Illustration – Niagara Falls - What will happen to a daredevil who says he will try to see how close he can row a little boat to the edge of the falls without going over? He tries at a half a mile, then a quarter of a mile, then 300 yards, etc. What’s going to eventually happen to him as he gets closer?
- \* That’s the way we are sometimes with sin and our entertainment obsessed culture! We don’t want to sin, but we want to “get as close as we can” to it.
- C. Texts –
1. Read 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Timothy 6:11 – What is the four letter word that describes what our attitude should be towards sin and worldly attitudes? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. In what areas is it most difficult for you to “flee” the world? Be honest. Check one or two
- |                                   |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Questionable movies         | _____ Questionable dancing  | _____ Questionable TV shows     |
| _____ Questionable Internet sites | _____ Obsession with sports | _____ Obsession with politics   |
| _____ Questionable music          | _____ Obsession with money  | _____ Wasted time w/video games |
1. What concrete things can you do to better control that area of difficulty? How can we help?

## III. Distinguishing between innocent pleasure and morally unhealthy entertainment and obsessions

- A. Is it possible to go an extreme and avoid even innocent pleasures so much that we become oddballs and unable to relate to others? Might Amish people be an example of this?
1. I have some good friends who think that any music that is not a spiritual hymn is sinful because it’s “of the world.” I asked if they put baseball in that category because it’s “of the world” and they said “no.” (They like baseball!)
  2. Examples in the Bible of awareness of surrounding culture and events
    - a. Paul quoted Greek poets - Epimenides, Aratus, Cleanthes, and Menander (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12, perhaps 1 Cor. 15:33)
    - b. Jesus knew about current events (Luke 13:1-5).
  3. How can we be aware of and even appreciate certain aspects of our culture (music, literature, history) without being contaminated? This is a big challenge!
- B. A list of questions that might help us make the distinction.
1. Would I mind Jesus watching me participate in this cultural activity?
  2. Does watching this activity involve watching those provocatively dressed?
  3. Does watching this activity involve hearing a lot of bad language?
  4. Could this book, movie, activity, etc. be described as pure, lovely or of good report? (Phil. 4:8)
  5. Would I be tempted to miss a spiritual activity to participate in this?
  6. Have I missed a spiritual activity to participate in this?



Conclusion – Have a prayer asking God’s help in avoiding contamination with the world and being more holy.

## Lesson 5: Not conformed to modern confusion about roles, but transformed into accepting God's plan.

Intro.

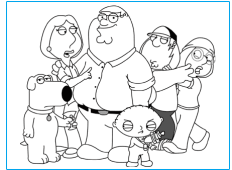
- A. Have you ever been in a play? What role did you play?
  - 1. What would have happened if in the middle of the play, you decided you didn't like your role and all of a sudden changed to another?
- B. In what way can our lives be compared to a play with different roles?

### I. Who should determine our roles?

- A. In a book or play who should determine the roles? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Read Psalm 100:3 - Why does God have the right to determine our roles in life?
  - 1. Why is there confusion when we decide that we don't like our roles and want to take on others?

### II. Accepting our roles as sons and daughters

- A. Read the following verses and write to the side of them, the roles that God has in mind for us as children towards our parents.
  - 1. What was the fifth commandment? (Ex. 20:12; Ephesians 6:2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Ephesians 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Modern attitudes towards these roles
  - 1. How popular do you think the two roles mentioned above (honor and obedience) are among most young people in our culture today regarding their attitude towards parents?
  - 2. Name some popular television shows where the idea of obedient and honoring children are made fun of, where parents look like idiots and kids are "wise guy" smart alecks.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Do you think the "postmodern" culture described in earlier lessons has anything to do with this.
- C. Analyzing ourselves – Avoiding conformity to worldly attitudes about childrens' roles.
  - 1. Be honest! On a scale of 1-10, how well do you do at your role of obeying and honoring your parents? \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Do you think the influence of some of the "wise guy" kids TV shows and movies may have knocked your number down a little?
  - 2. Thought question – How can we obey and honor our parents when...
    - a. ... they make mistakes?
    - b. ... show character flaws?
    - c. ...are "too strict?"
  - 3. Read Luke 2:51
    - a. Do you think Jesus was smarter than his parents? Did they make mistakes? Did he?
    - b. And yet... what was his attitude towards them?
    - c. How can Jesus' example help us not to be conformed to the world and to be obedient and submissive to our parents' even when they make mistakes?



### III. Accepting women's roles

- A. Read the following texts about the roles of women. Write a summary after reading the role.
  - 1. Ephesians 5:22 be in subjection to... \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Titus 2:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. 1 Timothy 2:12 What role is not approved for women according to this text.  
\_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ over the man.
  - 4. 1 Corinthians 14:34 What should women not do in the assembly of the church \_\_\_\_\_
- B. How does our postmodern society view the teaching about God's role for women as being in subjection to their husbands, keepers at home and avoiding public speaking roles in the church and avoiding taking positions of authority over men?
  - 1. An atheist on the Internet says regarding the verses above, "No woman with a shred of self-esteem would want to demean herself by bowing to such tyrannical and self-effacing absolutes."
  - 2. Modern feminism goes beyond the idea of equality (which the Bible teaches – Galatians 3:28) and teaches instead that men and women should have identical roles. That is antibiblical.
    - a. It is good that it has combated the idea of "male superiority," but has gone far beyond that.
  - 3. The primary victims of feminism – Children and eventually society as a whole
    - a. When women deemphasize their roles as nurturing mothers and spend less time with their children, there are problems!

- b. 2,500,000 children were treated last year for abuse! When they are seen as getting in the way of careers, they are going to be neglected and even abused!
  - c. The explosion in drug abuse, suicide, abortion, etc. can be attributed in part to feminism and the de-emphasis on the importance of motherhood among feminists.
- C. Analyzing ourselves – How “conformed” are we to worldly concepts about women’s roles?
- 1. On a scale of 1- 10 (1 = very negative, 10 = extremely positive) how does the Biblical term “homemakers” (Titus 2:5 NKJV) strike you when thinking of an ideal life for a woman? \_\_\_\_
  - 2. Why do you think some might have a hard time giving the idea of being a homemaker a “10?”  
(a) Feminist propaganda, (b) Postmodernism (c) materialism (d) role models on TV
  - 3. What are some things we can do to transform women from the modern concepts that fulfillment comes not so much from serving others or raising children in a stable home but from making money, being in charge of men or roaming the world on various adventures? (Thought question)

#### IV. Accepting men’s roles

- A. Read the following texts and give a summary of the responsibilities that God has in mind for men, especially in the family.
- 1. Ephesians 6:4 Don’t provoke children to wrath but \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Ephesians 5:23 Be \_\_\_\_\_ of the wife.
  - 3. Ephesians 5:25 \_\_\_\_\_ their wives as Christ loved the church.
  - 4. Ephesians 5:28 \_\_\_\_\_ their wives as their own \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. How do many modern men view their God given roles as loving leaders of their families?
- 1. In 2006, 12.9 million families in the U.S. were headed by a single-parent, 80% of which were headed by a female. That number doubled since 1970. (census bureau)
  - 2. Thought question – Why do you think so many men abandon their wives and children?
  - 3. What percentage of those who stay with their wife and children would you guess give them too little attention (neglect them)? 25%? 50%? 75%? 90%  
a. How much does a selfish macho attitude among men (the idea that raising children, keeping house is women’s) contribute to the neglect of children?
  - 4. List modern TV shows that present men as loving, firm (manly!) and faithful heads of their families? (You’ll have a hard time!) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. List modern TV shows that present men as either manipulative sex seekers with no self control or mousy wise cracking sissies that have no backbone.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6. How much do you think that TV’s presentation of men as selfish louts affects young men’s concepts of their roles in life? (a) Tremendously (b) Some (c.) Little (d) Not at all.
- C. Analyzing ourselves. How conformed are we to the selfish concept of men seen in the world.
- 1. Young men, when you think of your future what do you think of most? (a) 90% career – 10% nurturing husband/father, (b) 70% - 30% (c) 50% - 50% (d) 30%- 70% (e) 10%- 90%  
a. Which do you think is “about right?”  
b. What do you think God’s priority is for you as an adult male?
  - 2. Young women, when you think of a future husband, would you prefer one who makes \$100,000+ a year but has little time for the family, or one who makes \$30,000 a year but is dedicated to the family? Be honest!



**Conclusion** – Our postmodern world has distorted God’s concepts of roles for children, men and women. We see the results in our friends and in society in general with the explosion of neglect, abuse and desperation.

- A. Within ten years we can probably divide campers into three categories:
- 1. Those who have completely conformed to the world and therefore have great spiritual catastrophes in their lives (divorce, adultery, abandonment, even alcoholism or addiction.)
  - 2. Those who conform to the world in part, suffer and then wake up and seek the Lord who consoles them even as they struggle with worldly husbands, children, etc.
  - 3. Those who allow themselves to be completely transformed in accepting to God’s roles and ways and therefore seek spiritually minded companions and form stable homes where God is truly the King.
- B. The main question is – In which of these three categories will you be! You choose now!
- C. Conclude with a prayer asking God’s help in not being conformed to the world, but transformed!

