

The Battle of the Interior:

Following up on Priorities

Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

Many believers who are familiar with **Romans 12:2** may **interpret** what Paul is saying as a strong warning against becoming like the world. In fact, the command, *“and do not be conformed to this world,”* is certainly intended to **identify the tendency**, even of Christians, to become worldly if certain **self-imposed measures** are not practiced as a manner of life. (Observe the chart below...follow through is key.)

What are some of these measures?

1. Personal Bible Study and Application

For example, we know that the Word of God is useful, not only for informing us regarding what is dangerous and wrong, but also for revealing the right path to follow and for exposing sin so that we may address its destructive capability (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

2. Exhibiting a Life Characterized by an Unbroken Communion with God

The trio of daily disciplines, including the commands to “rejoice, pray,” and “give thanks,” are linked to God’s desire for displaying the counter-cultural aspects of those who are “in Christ” (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

3. Practicing Worship as a Reflex to Life’s Circumstances for the Sole Purpose of Expressing a Heart Devotion to God

True worshippers are characterized in Scripture as responding to the truth from God in such a way that their capacity for knowing God is directed toward Him (Jn. 4:23-24).

4. Practicing Deliberate and Absolute Surrender to God in order to Know and Accomplish His Will

The conscious reckoning of our lives as dead to selfish ambition and alive to God permits our involvement in His purposes in ways otherwise unseen and unknown to accomplish significant tasks that advance His kingdom (Rom. 6:13; Col. 3:1-3; 1 Kings 20:4; note the “all” references in Pro. 3:5-6; Deut. 6:5; see “always” and “everything” at Jos. 1:8).

5. Relying upon the Holy Spirit to Resist Temptation and Magnify the Lord Jesus through Godly Living

The Spirit of God was known throughout the Old Testament as the “Spirit of holiness” (Ps. 51:11). We must not lose sight of the word “holy” associated with Him. By resigning to the Spirit’s control, we accomplish the tandem benefits of winning the battle with temptation and yielding the fruit of Christian character (Matt. 26:41; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Gal. 5:22-23; of “holy” see the case in 1 Kings 13:1-34).

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6. Cultivating a Passion for the Lost that Prioritizes Daily Living According to the Needs of Others

We can center daily living on our own needs, or prioritize living by the needs of others. Where the Gospel is concerned, the greatest need of a dying humanity is a Savior to rescue them from eternal ruin (Acts 20:22-24; see Matt. 9:35-38 and note: the enemy will succeed if he can keep us off message, Luke 22:31-32).

7. Maintaining the Joy of Fulfilling the Obligation of Rendering Service to God in the Body of Christ

The hallmark of healthy Christian living is behavior that stems from an awareness of our union with Christ and the adoption of His core values and disciplines (Rom. 12:9-13).

