

Do not conform to the pattern of this World (1 Samuel 29:1-11 &

Romans 12:1-8)

10-Nov-19

G'Day Church Family...

There are **Bibles** in front of you

And we're looking at **1 Samuel chapter 29** - and we'll also be referring to Romans 12:1-8.

You've got the usual **outline** for you to **take notes** - if that helps you **concentrate**.

Let me ask **God** for His **help** and **guidance** first - let's **pray**...

Intro

*I once counselled a **Christian couple** before **they got married** (no one in this church)*

*And they **wanted to live together** before they were married – they insisted they **wouldn't be sleeping together** (1 Cor 7:2) – and that they just wanted to be together.*

*So, I asked them **how would they be different to any non-Christian couples** in their street that were also living together – **how would anyone see any difference** in their behaviour than the others?*

Is that what God would expect of Christians?

[PowerPoint 1-world]

In our NT reading [Romans 12 please turn there], the apostle Paul says: **not to conform to the pattern of this world** (Rom 12:2)

Why does the Apostle Paul say - *not to conform to the pattern of the world?*

Well - we need to go back a verse - to verse 1

[PowerPoint 2-mercy]

Because [in view of] of *God's mercy?*

What mercy?

God's mercy in sending Jesus to be sacrificed on the cross - that mercy!

The *mercy* that *replaced our sin and death* - with *forgiveness* and *eternal* life

Because of God's mercy to us - in Jesus

[PowerPoint 3-sacrificial lives]

V1 says we are to *live lives which are sacrificial* and pleasing to God

How?

[PowerPoint 4-transformed]

Back to V2 again - by *not conforming to worldly* standards - but by being *transformed into Jesus people*

As, Jesus Himself says in John 17:14: **We are not of the world any more than He is of the world**

In our OT passage - **1 Samuel 29** - [Please turn there now] - we're dealing with David still on the run from King Saul.

David's in *enemy territory* and he has *befriended* the Philistine King - **Achish**

And he's Achish's *bodyguard*.

David has been so convincing at deception - that he's deceived Achish - into thinking that *David has turned against his own people*, the Israelites - and is now *willing to fight for the Philistines*.

Now - remember - David is described, earlier in 1 Samuel, as a *man after God's own heart* (1 Samuel 13:14)

How do people know David is a man after God's own heart?

Is David acting like it?

In this chapter (29) and in chapter 27 - David is not *acting like a man after God's own heart*

[PowerPoint 5-David]

He's actually *conforming to the patterns of this world - rather than acting like a man of God*

Even though - *God has shown David - great mercy*

Here's what God has done so far, for David:

- *God helped David defeat Goliath*
- *God anointed him the next king of Israel*
- *God has preserved David from being killed by King Saul*
- *God prevented David from foolishly wiping out Nabal - by sending Abigail*
- *God provided David with a beautiful and wise wife - Abigail*
- *God prevented David from taking vengeance on Saul*

Despite God's mercy to David

[PowerPoint 6-Heading]

David is *compromising with the world in 4 ways* - which I believe can happen to us today - if we're not diligent in our walk with God

[PowerPoint 6a-subtle]

First - compromise is subtle and gradual

Back in chapter 27:1 - David thought the *best thing he could do* was to go to the *Philistine* territory (*enemy territory*) to escape Saul

There he *serves King Achish* of Gath - he becomes *Achish's servant*

Achish is so pleased to have David - the mighty warrior - to defect from Israel to the Philistines - that he *gives David his own town - Ziklag*

David makes *secret raids against* Israel's enemies and then *lies about it to gain favour* with Achish

Achish is so impressed with David - he makes David his *bodyguard*

And now as we pick up the story in chapter 29 - David is in the *compromising position* - in v2 of *marching with the Philistines against his own people, the Israelites.*

And David and his men are *at the rear* protecting King Achish

I hope you can see that one compromise has led to another

Going to live in enemy territory - and then having to live a life of lies and deception - has gradually led to more and more lies and deception - and now *David is in a tricky situation.*

If continues to march with the Philistine army - he will be put in a position of *having to kill his own people.*

If he turns on Achish and betrays that friendship which Achish clearly thinks is genuine - and attacks the Philistine army at the rear - David and his men are heavily *outnumbered*

Compromise is subtle and gradual

Application: It's the same for us.

If we *lie* - we may have to tell *another lie to cover up* the first lie - so we don't get caught out.

If we *steal* - we may have to *tell a lie and cover up* - when someone asks where we got that thing from?

If we *cheat* - we'll have to *lie* - so *no one finds out* we've cheated.

If we let one of children or grandchild - watch an inappropriate movie for their age - then regret it - then the next child comes along and says - well you let him/her watch it - why not me? So, we cave in?

[PowerPoint 6b-relationships]

The *second way*, David compromised with worldly behaviour - was to have a *wrong relationship* - David became a *servant* of Achish and *called Achish, he's Lord*. But David has *only one true Lord*.

David's worldliness is so good - that Achish was deceived into thinking David was trustworthy - see the end of v3 - *from the day he left Saul until now, I have found not fault in him!*

You have to feel sorry for *Achish* - is so *sincere* and yet so *gullible*. He really thinks David is an honest man - little does he know.

But the *Philistine commanders* aren't so *gullible*.

They can see a problem with David - an Israelite (who killed their giant Goliath) being in their army and fighting against the Israelites is a major conflict of interests - v4 - and they're rightly **concerned that David might turn against them**

It would be like during **WWII** - allowing a **German general** to join the **British army**.

David **shouldn't even be in this position** - having a **close relationship** with a **King** of a country that **worships false gods** and not the one true God - let alone **fighting** in that country's army - **against his own country**.

Application - For us it means we have to **be careful with our relationships** with non-believers. Yes, by all means, be friends and witness to them. But be diligent and **alert to being sucked into their world**. If we are not **strong in our faith** and **obedience** to God - we may be led their way - instead of them being led God's way.

Analogy - if you're the Christian on the **chair** - and the non-Christian is sitting on the floor. It's **easier** for the person on the floor **to pull you off the chair** - that for you to pull them up off the floor

As the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:33 - **Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."**

[PowerPoint 6c-joined in]

The **third** way, David compromised with worldly behaviour - was he **joined in sinful behaviour to win approval**.

David joined the enemy - the Philistines - and to **win the approval of Achish** - back in chapter 27 - David carried out **raids on innocent people - wiped out the whole town** - so **no one could inform** on him - and **took all their stuff** He's **acting like** one of the **kings** from the surrounding **nations** - he's **not acting like God's anointed King** - and a man **after God's own heart**.

What's the **difference between David and any other king?**

He's compromised himself

Application - what about us?

Are we tempted to join in sinful behaviour - to gain approval from people?

When I worked in IT - the guys in the office - would call me over - come and look at this **"hot" girl on the screen** - I'd say - no thanks - which would mean I would cop insults.

It would have been easy for me to give in to them - so I didn't cop insults from them?

What about if we **hear people gossiping** about someone at church - are we **tempted to join in** - so we're **accepted by the people** gossiping - or are we **brave enough** to say - **"hey we shouldn't be gossiping about anyone?"**

Or what if we're with a **group of friends who aren't Christian** - and they're using **foul language or blaspheming** - OMG or JC - do we use the **same language** to be accepted by them - or do we say **"hey I don't like that language or blaspheming - it's wrong!"**

[PowerPoint 6d-ignoring]

The *fourth* way, David compromised with worldly behaviour - was he *ignored God and His Word*. At no stage in this chapter or in chapter 27 - does David consult God for direction - and at no stage is he obedient to God's Word.

Ironically, it's *Achish* who *mentions God* in this chapter - in fact twice.

In v6 - Achish says to David "As surely as the *Lord lives*, you have been reliable"

And in v9 - Achish says to David "I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as *an angel of God*"

You see - *David's pride is in the way*.

The Israeli *song* and dance of verse 5 has *gone to David's head*:

Saul has slain his thousands

And David his tens of thousands

David is *flying solo* - without God

But *flying solo* without God - *is* a very *dangerous* thing to do.

Because - *David's decision* to go to the Philistine territory *seems to have worked in his own eyes* - he's got his men - his own land - he's in favour with Achish - everything is going well - he's fooled himself into thinking - I can do it all myself - without God's help

But now he's in a really compromising situation

Application - what about us? We can *fool ourselves* into thinking - *we can fly solo without God* - or have God as our co-pilot - instead of realizing God is the only one - who can fly the plane - properly and safely.

It's *important we keep God in our lives*.

He must be *front and centre* of our lives.

His guidance for our lives is *paramount*

Consulting him *daily* is essential.

How can we know about God - know about Jesus - and know about ourselves - without *reading His Word* - and *believing* it - *meditating* on it - and *following* it.

(pause)

Despite David's compromises and conforming to the world.

God still shows David mercy.

God arranges for David to be sent back to Ziklag - and out of harms way of the impending battle.

See v7 - [Now turn back and go in peace, do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers.](#)

How *merciful* is our Great God!

Solution for Us

[PowerPoint 7-Heading]

Coming back to how this all ties in for us.

How do *people know we are Christians?*

Is it *obvious?*

Are we *acting like it?*

Have you noticed how *non-Christians* - always seem to *know how we Christians* should *behave?*

What's the *solution for us* - not to get sucked into conforming to the pattern of the world?

Our NT passage from Romans 12:2 - tells us:

[PowerPoint 7a-transform]

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind.

So, the solution is to be **transformed**

The Greek word for transform - is **metamorphosis**

It means a **complete change** - like a **caterpillar** changing to a **butterfly**

How are we able to be transformed?

It tells us...

By the renewal (literally - **renovation**) of our minds

So, we're **not thinking like the world**

But **thinking like Jesus**

WWJD?

This is **possible** by us having the **Holy Spirit** - in our lives - **guiding** us, **teaching** us and **reminding** us what Jesus taught - and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit

This is **possible** by us being in **constant communication** with God in prayer

And this is **possible** by **reading God's Word**.

What does this **renewal (renovation)** of our minds **look like?**

Well - verses 3 to 8 - of our Romans 12 passage tells us:

[PowerPoint 7b-Humble service]

It simply looks like - **humble service as a member of Jesus' body** - the Church - each of us using our God-given gifts to serve each other - and bring glory to God

That will make us the opposite to the ungodly behaviour of the world we live in - and will attract others to join this body of Jesus.

The **question** for each of us then is:

Are we using our God given gifts - in humble service of each other?

Conclusion

[PowerPoint 8-Heading]

To finish up then.

Are we tempted to follow the world's way?

Because sometimes it's easy for us to get sucked in.

Well - let me leave us with a few words from the Apostle Paul from 1 Corinthians 10:11-13 to help us, when we are tempted:

[PowerPoint 8a-no tempting]

¹¹ These things happened [in Israel's history] to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Let's pray...