

In obedience to our Master, we must be willing to go against the flow of society. As we follow Jesus, our motives, values, and habits are bound to be different from those who are not Christians. That's the way it was in the first century when the pagans were puzzled and convicted by the lifestyle of Christians. Peter wrote, "They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (1 Pet. 4:4).

When we are marching to the beat of a different drummer, of course we will be out of step with people around us. This takes conviction, courage, and courtesy. But by God's enabling grace we can be disturbingly different--and effectively different too. --VCG

*Some will hate you, some will love you;
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man and look above you,
Trust in God and do the right. --MacLeod*

**When we walk with the Lord,
we'll be out of step with the world.**



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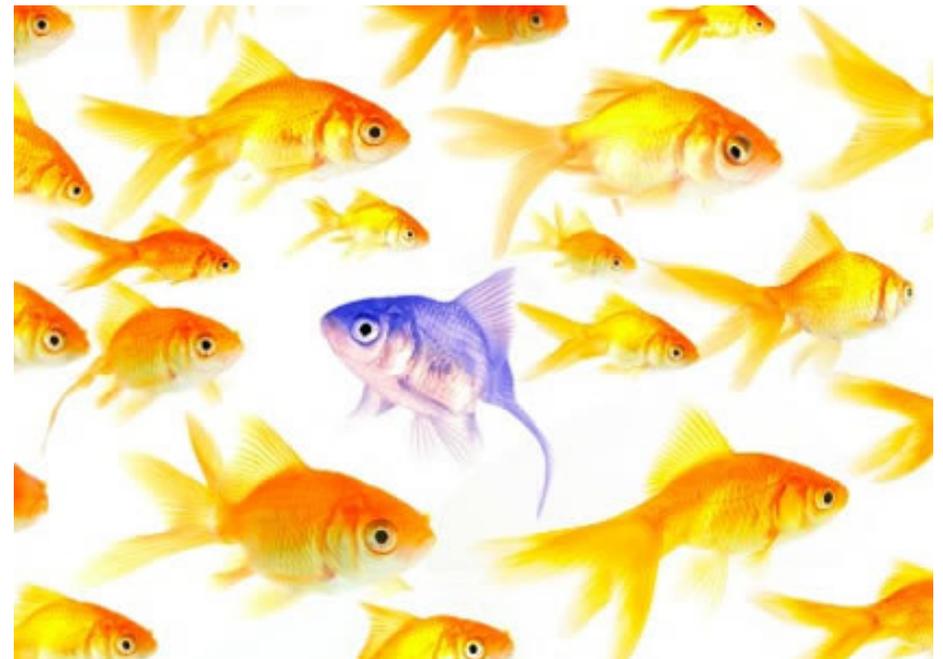
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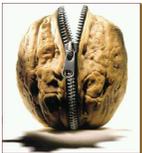
Against The Flow

Do not be conformed to this world. --Romans 12:2

Two university students .. painted a mural on the wall outside their .. room. .. it showed a school of fish all swimming in the same direction except for a single fish heading the opposite way.

The one fish was intended to be the age-old symbol for Christ. Printed on the picture were the words, "Go against the flow." University officials, arguing that the mural might offend non-Christians, ordered the students to paint over it.





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

Change for the Better

(2 Corinthians 10:5) "... bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

Romans 12:1-2 teaches that three aspects of our nature are to be dedicated to God:

1. A dedicated _____: dedicated in _____ to God, which _____ God, Verse 1



2. A dedicated _____:dedicated to the Word in _____ (and not to the _____) so that we are _____ (and not conformed), Verses 1-2

(Genesis 2:7) "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

(Ephesians 4:17-24) "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, {18} having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; {19} who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. {20} But you have not so learned Christ, {21} if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: {22} that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, {23} and be **renewed in the spirit of your mind**, {24} and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

(Colossians 3:10) "and have put on the new man who is **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of Him who created him,"

(2 Corinthians 3:18) "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."



3. A dedicated _____:dedicated to God in _____ so that we _____ and _____ God's choices, Verse 2

(Jeremiah 29:11) "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

(1 Peter 4:3-4) "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles; when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. {4} In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you."

(1 Peter 3:1) "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,"

(Matthew 5:16) ""Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

(1 Corinthians 9:22) "... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

