

Text: Romans 12.2

Alan Woller confirmation verse.

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Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Peer pressure is really a strong force, probably stronger than the force. That pressure to conform, to be like everyone else, to look like everyone else, to do what everyone else does, to bow to popular opinion. We know that pressure is especially strong in high school. But it doesn't go away when you graduate. Adults still are tempted, still give in. But Alan you chose a verse that is God's power to overcome that peer pressure. In fact, I'm thinking you chose this verse because you know the power of peer pressure and you know that God's power is greater. You know that you don't have to conform.

That's what everyone wants. They want you to conform. They want you to fit the mold, to fall in line. One culture has a saying, "The nail that sticks up will be pounded down." The person who stands out will be put back in place. And high school might be the worst place that forces this outward conformity. You better dress cool. You better look cool. And it's so easy to laugh at the jokes, even if you feel a little bad inside. And it's so easy to put someone down, even when you know it's not right.

But Alan, you have a greater power to be who you really are! You have Jesus! You have a Savior who loved you so much, this much, he stretched out his arms and died, just for you. Alan, no amount of popularity can add to Jesus' forgiveness. No lack of popularity can take it away. Alan, you are baptized. You are a child of God. That's who you are. Cool clothes won't add to that. You already have perfection from Jesus as your clothing. Uncool clothes won't take away the holiness you already wear in God's eyes. Alan, just be who you are, a child of God, a loved and forgiven child of God.

That's how you are transformed. There's a cool contrast here. Conforming to the pattern of this world is just an outward, physical conforming. Being transformed, that's an inner, spiritual transformation of the mind. Being transformed is so cool. Yes, that means you are going to be different, because your mind is being constantly renewed by God. Your way of thinking is being constantly transformed to match with God's way of thinking. That might not match popular opinion, but so what?

God's way of thinking, God's will is good and pleasing, and perfect. And you will be able to test and approve what really is God's will. You won't have to just fall in line with what everyone else thinks. You will get to be above the line and think like God thinks. How cool is that? God has given you the ability to discern what's right and what's wrong. What God wants and what God doesn't want. No improvement can be made on God's will. His will is perfect. You don't have to worry about pleasing people by conforming. As a child of God, you will please God by having God transform your mind to be like God's mind. Wow! What could be cooler than that? What could be cooler than being a child of God. Alan, just be who you are. Be what God already declared you to be: his child. Amen.