

## A Sad Truth

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by Wayne Goff

A sad truth which I have noticed over 48 years of preaching is that too many brethren – not all, but most – **are more greatly influenced by society than by the Word of God**. These Christians believe in Jesus and His Church, honor God’s Word by studying it in Bible Class and listening to the preacher deliver sermons. But when it comes to being **transformed** by the Word in their everyday lives, most are lacking. Secular music, secular education, society’s current mores, current trends in dress, styles, and language all have a greater influence on most Christians than God’s Word does.

Perhaps it has always been this way. We **say** that “*we walk by faith, not by sight,*” but sight is easier to see, hear, listen to and follow. We spend too much time listening to music, scrolling down our phones with Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Snapchat, etc., and chatting about things which have no lasting value. It’s easier to do that than to sit down and **read, study and meditate**. I guess that sounds *too much* like homework, and not a few brethren have decided after graduation from high school or college that they are “done with reading.” So the influence is coming more from man than from God.

We look at ancient Israel and wonder why they were always following after idols – never realizing that they were doing what everyone else around them was doing.

We read about Corinth and their multitude of problems and wonder why they were like that – never realizing that they too had not yet been transformed by the renewing of their minds! Even Paul said “*You are still carnal*” (1 Cor. 3:3). Well, **change** is hard and these Corinthians struggled with **change**. So do you and I.

The solution is that each one of us must *examine ourselves* (2 Cor. 13:5), slowly, carefully, with God’s Word in mind. It’s hard to **change** the invisible, but that’s where our true being resides. We can be fashionable with the world on matters of indifference like styles, music, housing, furniture, automobiles, etc. – but we must not become so much like the world that they cannot tell that we are Christians by our demeanor, language and preferences. It’s something to consider.

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