

# The Anatomy of a Church (11a)

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[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 02/16/14)

## PERSONAL HOLINESS

### Reject the Lustful Lifestyle of Your Past [1 Peter 1:14](#)

[1 Peter 1:14 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>14</sup>“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance.”

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: If we are to be committed to Christ, then we need to behave as obedient children. We are to obey the Lord and His Word. We are not to fashion ourselves according to former lusts. What does that mean? The phrase “do not be conformed to” is from the Greek word *suschematizo* {soos-khay-mat-id'-zo} which means “to conform yourself to another's pattern; to be guided by.” We are not to follow or be guided by the lustful lifestyle of our lives before we were saved and ignorant of God’s truth. We are not to be conformed to the mold of this ungodly world.

[Romans 12:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Paul says, “don't be conformed o adapt to this world” which means we are not to be conformed or fashioned to this world's philosophies, opinions, impulses, greed, and sinful lifestyles. Instead, we are to be transformed. This word “transformed” describes a change from within, in our attitude, which leads to a change in our behavior. It comes from the Greek word metamorphoo. Metamorphoo comes from meta which means “across” and morphe meaning “form.” It means to “change across one form to another.” The biology term “metamorphosis” comes from this word. The Word of God and yielding to the Holy Spirit will transform your mind and change your life. We are to yield to the Holy Spirit's control. Yielding to His control will help us greatly in being dedicated to Christ.

The temptation of many believers is to slip back into the old lifestyle. Unfortunately, many do this. You will not be consecrated to Christ if you choose to live a carnal, worldly life. Looking for the Lord’s return, however, will motivate us to stay on our toes spiritually.

[1 Peter 1:14 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,

The lusts that characterized that former life include sinful desires and thoughts, evil longings, uncontrolled appetites, sensual impulses, and all other unrighteous motivations and

urges that compel the unregenerate (cf. [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [Galatians 5:19-24](#); [Ephesians 5:3-5](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:4-5](#)).

[1 Corinthians 6:9-11 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

[Galatians 5:19-24 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

<sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

[Ephesians 5:3-5 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

<sup>4</sup> and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

<sup>5</sup> For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

[1 Thessalonians 4:4-5 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

<sup>5</sup> not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;