

CHRIS SERIES INTROS...

We all have trends around our lives...

Trends have come a long way...

Crocks... platform shoes... parachute pants... preppy... sporty... white converses... Yeezees... short shorts... over-sized t-shirts and leggings...

Trends aren't just physical things... they can be mental too...

They can be ways of thinking...

There were people who followed the idea that the world was going to end in 2012... there was even a book called *88 Reasons why the Rapture is in 1988*... we see how that turned out...

We laugh now... but here have been some serious ones... even trends have gotten people killed...

So, here is the truth about trends... they can be deadly... but they can also be good and even helpful...

That's really what this entire series is about... understanding the balance of the good gifts of God and knowing those good gifts can be used wrongly... knowing when and what to run towards and to run from...

Romans 12:1-2 helps us work this out...

Romans is a letter to the churches in Rome by Paul... super deep theological things all throughout but ch. 12 is where it starts to get super applicable and really Paul spends the rest of the letter helping the church learn how to live as the church!

THE POINT: GOD'S WORD HELPS US DETERMINE WHAT TRENDS ARE HELPFUL AND HURTFUL.

READ: ROMANS 12:1-2

OUR GOAL IS TO LOOK LIKE JESUS! (12:1)

God has created us for himself... we are to be *a living sacrifice... holy... acceptable in the sight of the Lord*...

MEANING WE ARE TO BE HIS... IN EVERYTHING WE DO... PICTURES OF HIM!

These are the things we are to be pursuing... focused on... giving our lives too...

Everything that we strive for... everything that we do as Christians should be to this end...

Everything for God's glory... he has given us minds... bodies... emotions... all of these things for his glory... to use them rightly!

But sometimes this can be a problem can't it? It gets challenged... the world can lead us in a different way specifically by the trends that come... we're like my dog when he sees a squirrel.... GONE...

This isn't to say we have to stay away from everything in the world... but Paul does teach us something...

DON'T LOOK LIKE THE WORLD! (12:2A)

Whether Paul specifically meant to watch out for trends when he was writing this, listen to what he says...

Do not be conformed to this world... Don't become like this world... what it does... says... it focuses on...

There are things in this world that can be really harmful to us...

There are things this world offers that are dangerous... but its not just that there are things that are dangerous...

Crazy example... pass out game... trend... they died...

But this whole trend thing is more than that...

We just finished up 1 Peter in the HS GUYS SS... Peter tells us that Christians have been *set apart*... we have been called out and we should look different in the world...

Here is what tonight is not about... it's not saying you can't do this... you can do this... don't wear this... don't buy that no...

It's about finding the balance of knowing when to keep your distance from the world and when to dive in... Isn't that what Paul is saying... ***DON'T BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD...***

That's why this series is called RED FLAGS....

There are some RED FLAGS that we can identify that help us know if we are getting too far or too close...

What are some of those RED FLAGS when it comes to trends?

- things that drive us from Christ... - things that steal our joy...
- things that capture all of our attention... - things that make us look more like others and less like Christ...
- things that we know are dangerous to us... - things that drive us to a bad mental state...

These are times and places when we flirt with sin... we flirt with looking more like the world than looking like Christ...

You see this isn't about buying the newest pair of Nikes...

It's about the heart behind that... why are you doing it... why are you wanting to have what they have... do what they do... be associated with them?

Is it because you are finding your identity in those things or they truly bring you joy...?

That's the hard part... I'm a want-er... I want things... sometimes I allow things to become my joy instead of Jesus...

What Jesus has and gives is all we need... it speaks to who we are and what we are...

So... we have to ask ourselves...

What do we look like? When we are trying to be like others... what do I want to look like?

But some trends are good... *the End it Movement... Bible reading... pursuit of good grades... journaling... etc...*

How do we figure out what's good and not... the balance of living in this world and not becoming what this world is...?

Paul helps us in this...

HELP FROM THE WORD! (12:2A)

Completely opposite from being *conformed* is *transformed*...

Instead of us molding into the shape of everything and everyone else... fitting the norm...

Paul tells us to be ***TRANSFORMED by the renewal of our mind***.... Why?

So that we can ***discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect***...

Here is the simple... we are to let God's Word drive us to know right from wrong... to know where the line is... Sometimes we let the world... what is in... what everyone is saying and doing be what's "right..."

God's Word is what's right... it's what's true... we should cling to it!

Prayer also helps... when we feel stuck... unsure... God gives us guidance!

God's Word gives us wisdom to make the hard decisions... even gives us wisdom in having hard conversations... or leaving what is bad for us...

SO...

- *Trust Christ is sufficient for your identity and your wants...*
- *Be wise in what you want and what you are around...*
- *Strive for a life and lifestyle that proclaims Christ...*
- *Keep your guard up!*

QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out from the night?
2. What are trends you have followed?
3. What is the danger in following trends?
4. What kind of trends are you setting?