

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

Editor: LIC. WILBUR H. MULLEN, Westchester, N. S.

CONSECRATION OR CONFORMITY,  
WHICH?

By F. A. Dunlop

Strictly speaking there are but two Orders or Systems facing us, viz.: the Kingdom Order and the World Order. They are distinctly different and will allow for no overlapping. Christ, referring to His disciples, said: "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John writes: "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Again in Corinthians we read: "Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate." Hence, we see that the Scriptures make the dividing line between the Kingdom and the world very sharp and distinct.

In Hebrews 12:1, Paul shows us that the normal life of the Kingdom Order is Consecration, while the normal life of the World Order is Conformity. The Kingdom says: "Present your bodies." The world says: "Be Conformed."

Now this word "Conformed," is a hard word. But it is the world's word, nevertheless. And it is the world's price for what it has to offer. And it comprehends the purpose of the whole system. Conformity to the world leaves no place for Consecration to Christ. Since these two systems are opposites the world has won its ends, as far as man is concerned, when it has won its price.

This is the kind of a world that man can love. We don't gain anything by decrying or denying the fact. The world has variety, and all its wares are not "trashy" or "tinselly" either. If we want adventure and thrills the world has it; if we want fame and fortune the world has it; if we want love and romance the world has it; if we want culture and art, the world has it. There is no scarcity here.

But whatever form of worldliness we choose, the "terms" are always the same, namely, "Conformity."

A man becomes a banker. Here is an honorable business. He works up rapidly, and finds himself handling big business much sooner than he had expected. Securities, bonds, and loans are all he sees. His judgment is sought, his name heads many committees, and appears among the boards of directors in his busy round of duties; no day has hours enough, no week has days enough. He doesn't mean to neglect his family, but he does; he doesn't mean to neglect his church, but he does; and saddest of all, he doesn't mean to neglect his Christ, but he does; and this latter is what the world has been working for from the start. Conformity has been its terms and Conformity it has become. Nothing wrong with the banking business as a business, only the devil made use of it to unqualify a man for consecration to Christ. The world had what he wanted and he permitted himself to be run in its mold.

Take another case. A man thrills at the sound of music. Music is in his veins. His ear is open for but one sound—the sound of the world's symphonies. The more simpler forms are no sooner mastered and he is making friends with the names and works of great composers. The common world about him is forgotten. He cares neither for butler, barber or baker. He has but one ear and that is attuned to music; all other sounds are lost.

Christ's way of Consecration has no attraction, for this man is conformed to the world—the world he loves.

Then there is the fashion devotee. Here again the world presents Big Merchandise. For six thousand years it has had but one aim, namely: to dress its clients unbecoming a consecrated Christian life. Let this point be won and the world is ready to let its case rest as far as fashions are concerned. A few ten cent stones fastened in the ears; a dash of rouge on the cheek bone; a splurge of paint on the finger-nails, doesn't seem to be of much consequence, but it is all that is required to render any woman unfit for the normal life of the Kingdom.

The world has blighted many a promising life at the altar of fashion. Good, clean, beautiful girls have waged successful warfare on all other forms of evil, only to cater to the world's fads and fashions, to the loss of spiritual life. They measure up to every other standard of godliness and yet fail to live the normal life of the Kingdom because their offering is too greatly scented with the world. Bare backs, bare arms, and bare legs, may be smart, but they never have been sacred.

We think we can beat the world, but the world is shrewd in its matters of business. Its business policy has always been: "For value received I promise to pay." And sooner or later we must pay. The price when boiled down is always the same—it always adds up to the same total whether we are dealing in real estate, grand operas, or what not. Conformity is its price, and conformity is the normal life of the worldling.

Now, Consecration is the Kingdom word. While consecration is a normal attitude that must be maintained by the followers of Christ, it is also a means to an end. We consecrate that we may "prove!" Paul speaks of God's "will" here. When we come over from the World Order to the Kingdom Order we bring with us, or, in us, a world bent, a natural craving for the world. This, God would free us from. God is not so much in "Competition" with the world, as He is in "Contradiction" to the world. "If any man love the world, the Love of the Father is not in him." God would take the "love of the world" out, and put the "love of the Father" in. God has a better world than the devil has, but man has to be wholly sanctified before he can prove it. Sanctification adjusts one's spiritual life to the new life of the Kingdom. The hankering for the world is replaced by the joy of loving service.

Consecration, however, remains a necessary part of our Kingdom equipment throughout the entire journey. It is not strained nor circumscribed, but is best expressed in the language of the poet: "Tell me not of heavy crosses or of burdens hard to bear: for I find this great salvation makes each burden light appear. And I love to follow Jesus, simply counting all but loss, worldly honors all forsaking for the glory of the Cross."

Here then, we must make our choice. The world says, "Conform." Christ says, "Consecrate." Better not try doing both, it simply can't be done.

It is CONFORM or CONSECRATE, WHICH?

NOTE: Below is a testimony from one of our fine young people. Let others who have been recently converted, or received special help at Beulah, send in theirs to the Y. P. Editor.

## A TESTIMONY

Since I have become a Christian, everything seems to have taken on a different meaning. Everything that I do or plan to do, seems to have a mental question attached to it: "Will God approve?" The keynote of my life, now, is to please God.

Before I was saved, I didn't feel submissive to God's will; I didn't want Him to direct my life; and I didn't want to give up worldly pleasures. But I prayed that God would give me these feelings, because I DID WANT to have them, and God granted them in due time. It took me almost a year from the time I was awakened to my need of God until I finally surrendered. But since I have, sometimes it seems a peace too great to hold, comes upon me.

At other times, I feel discouraged and feel as if it would be easier to give up, but then God seems to set before me the vision of the glorious hereafter when the struggle is over, so that I can see and understand the foolishness of living a life contrary to God's will. He so comforts and guides me that each time I resist the tempter and rise victorious, it brings me closer to God and plants me firmer on my way.

How foolish, after all, it is for us to want to follow men's evil footsteps. We would not jeopardize our lives in any other way, yet that is just what we are doing if we don't follow Christ.

What joy shall be ours when we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Jesus is truly more than my best friend—something I cannot describe.

VERNA PATRIQUIN,  
Greenville Sta., N. S.

## CAN YOU ANSWER THESE?

1. Does the Bible say that the lion and the lamb shall feed together?
2. Where does it say that three wise men came to visit the child Jesus?
3. According to James, is the tongue an "unruly member?"
4. Is money the root of all evil?
5. Was Adam told that he would eat bread by the sweat of his brow?
6. What is the scripture reference for this: "Cleanliness is next to godliness?"

Answers next issue.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS LAST ISSUE

1. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27.
2. Paul had two "faithful sayings" found in I. Tim. 1:15, and I. Tim. 4:8-9.
3. Charity or love is the "more excellent way." I. Cor. 13.
4. Satan. Job 2:4.
5. "Deep things" are discovered "out of darkness." Job 12:22.
6. "A broken tooth, and a foot out of"