

Like All The Nations

Text: 1 Samuel 8:5

Introduction: Romans 12:1-3

1. In life, we all face the pressure to conform.
2. The Christian is often tempted to fit into the world's mold, even though he is commanded to be transformed.
3. Sadly, many desire and even choose to conform because they believe that the way of the world is superior to the way of the Lord.
4. Consider the example of the nation of Israel in the time of Samuel...

I. The Request (1 Samuel 8:1-5)

A. The Rulers

1. This request was made during the time of the Judges (Judges 17:6; 21:25).
2. God's plan was being abandoned due to compromise and corruption (Judges 1:1; 2:1-4, 7, 10-19).
3. When they lacked leadership, instead of returning to the Lord they sought to follow the path of the world.

B. The Reasons

1. Samuel is old.
2. Samuel's sons are corrupt.

C. The Reality

1. They desired to restructure God's arrangement.
2. They desired to be like the nations.

II. The Reaction (1 Samuel 8:6-8)

A. It was evil in the eyes of Samuel.

1. Later, he referred to it as great wickedness (12:17).
2. The people did not see things the way that Samuel did.

B. It was displeasing to Samuel

1. No pleasure can be found in that which is evil (cf. Hebrews 11:25).
2. Still, Samuel prayed; for God's view would be the determining factor.

C. It was rejection in the eyes of God.

1. In the original language, the rejection of God is emphatic.
2. They did not want Him to rule over them as King (10:19; 12:19).

D. It was rebellion in the eyes of God.

1. God declared that they had forsaken Him.
2. Rearranging God's pattern is the same as rebelling against Him.
 - a. For the home
 - b. For the church
 - c. For salvation
 - d. For worship
 - e. For work

- III. The Results (1 Samuel 8:10-20)
- A. There would be a loss of individual liberty.
 - B. The kingdom would be divided, and sin would be tolerated (1 Kings 14:21-24).
 - C. They would become idolatrous (2 Kings 17:33; 2 Chronicles 25:14).
 - D. They would become worse than the nations of men (2 Kings 21:1-9).
 - E. They would become rejected and delivered to captivity (Isaiah 1:1-20).

Conclusion:

- 1. When Truth is compromised to fit in with the world, only evil will result.
- 2. The Christian must resist the temptation to conform.
- 3. Submission to God brings salvation from sin.