

Chodesh Report

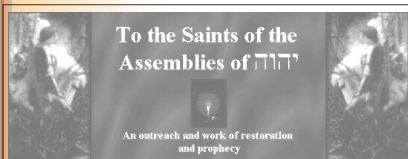
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The Original Chodesh Newsletter

Issue 35

Conformity: A Powerful Force



Index

Main Article	1
Scriptural Illusions	1, 8
FYI	4
For Your Consideration	8
Spiritual Discernment Moon Report Feast Observance	9
Lighter Side	10

The *Chodesh Report* is an open dialog of topical research and studies based upon the years of experience of TTSAOY Chaplaincy and like-minded Associates.

This is a free monthly newsletter published by *To the Saints of the Assemblies of YHWH*.

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Scriptural Allusions I

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life. ... The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. (Prov 4:13;19)

Conformity

The spirit of man has an insatiable need. You could say we're hard-wired with the need to fit in with our environment. Like most of creation, we have a built-in drive to conform. This can be easily observed when considering our lives from birth to death. At birth we seek attention for survival by crying. A baby soon adjusts their cries according to the mother's responses. As we mature, we continue developing more advanced skills for a variety of reasons: for continued attention, an awareness of and sense of self, for identity, and to find where we 'fit in' within familial, social and work-place environs.

When nearing graduation from school, we begin to assess the possibilities, weigh in ongoing education and its value in consideration of our futures, and so on. Concurrently, and equally as important, we need to discover a sense of self-worth - to know that we are seen as contributors and not just takers - an expected trait in most responsible societies. While some presumptuously rebel against it, they too find themselves conforming. No one is exempted from this world's need to "play along to get along".

In his book *The Pursuit of Happiness: What Makes a Person*

Happy-And Why (1993) David Myers states, "well-being is found in the renewal of disciplined lifestyles, committed relationships, and the giving and receiving of acceptance." If one does not practice self-introspect, continuous interpretation, and adaptation to one's environment, one could be simply swallowed up with delusion.¹ It is to varying degrees that people rely upon feedback from their environs that compels the spirit of man to further seek a type of confederacy - more often it is found among their intellectual peers. It is from this feedback that we glean a sense of identity, and self-worth. It is also significant to acknowledge that we are in fact known by the company we keep.

Conformity is a natural thing, and as many have experienced, it often also falls short of meeting our every need. Beyond our sentient being, there is also an often unrecognized need for spiritual fulfillment. The good news is, an alternative to the 'ways of the spirit of man' exists! In this month's issue, we discuss some basics of the process of conformity as understood by the spirit of man; and we answer to the questions of the why and how to an alternative

1 Myers, D. (1993). *The pursuit of Happiness*. (Reprint). New York. Avon Books, Inc.

way that transcends and meets our every need, 'the way'.

Why do we conform?

CONFORM, a. [L., form.] Made to resemble; assuming the same form; like; resembling. [Little used.]

CONFORM, v.t. [L., to form, or shape, form.]

1. To make like, in external appearance; to reduce to a like shape, or form, with something else; with to; as, to conform any thing to a model.

2. More generally, to reduce to a likeness or correspondence in manners, opinions or moral qualities.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son. Rom 8.

Be not conformed to this world. Rom 7.

3. To make agreeable to; to square with a rule or directory.

Demand of them why they conform not themselves to the order of the church?

CONFORM, v.i.

1. To comply with or yield to; to live or act according to; as, to conform to the fashion or to custom.

2. To comply with; to obey; as, to conform to the laws of the state. ~ Webster's Dictionary (1828)

What does it mean, to conform?

The word 'conform' is a contemporary word originating in the Middle English, meaning - (in the sense 'make (something) like another thing'): from Old French *conformer*, from Latin *conformare*, from *con-* 'together' + *formare* 'to form'.

The Good: Identity, relations, and self-improvement

Yes, we are social creatures after-all. From birth to death, we seek the attention and affections from others. The process begins with infancy. Infant-mother bonding, for example, not only provides the necessities of a new life it is also key in establishing a sense of trust that we will need throughout the rest our lives. Trust ... is an absolute must-have for meaningful personal, social, and business relationships.

During our school years we soon realize that we are not the center of others interests and focus of attention as was our infancy, toddler, and childhood days. Throughout our development we find ourselves assimilating to socially accepted norms. In matters of familial bonding, fitting in, and acceptance in the social environment, we may adapt slowly, but we do adapt, or conform.

Adolescence brings on a whole new meaning to conformity. I recall needing a pair of 'Beetle-boots, for example. And because my brother was a high-school athlete of good report, I also began to participate in sports activities. At the time, this seemed to serve well the need for shared acceptance and attention from my parents, family, and peers. All seemed well until young adulthood. At this juncture, identity became a significant preoccupation.

The transition from adolescence to young adulthood may become difficult for many reasons: hormonal influences, sexual awareness, and that 'now-ready' to get on with life feeling' tempered by that persistent feeling of 'not quite being ready' to take the world on. Identity issues were considered a passing phase until the 1950's -60's. In fact, it has always been a part of the maturation process for all. While many are blessed having been raised with the guide post of a moral code, others are not [see *libertine*].

Adulthood challenges seem to come at the most inconvenient times. By reason of social and peer influences, we adapt our clothing styles, to current socially accepted etiquette, life-style, and even to popular diet trends ... and sometimes all this at great expense. An important and often overlooked aspect of relations is interpersonal communications [IC]. IC can produce significant challenges to interactions with others at every stage of our lives.

The pressures to conform that our bio-ecology presents kindles a desire to improve.

How often have we had to ask another to restate or expand on a message seemingly poorly delivered, or maybe wish we had said something in a different way so as to have avoided some offense. How often have we had personal conflict with our work peers over simple matters? And then there are those numerous legal-speak documents that *must* have been written by a lawyer resulting in an ambiguous message to its reader. When confronted with such challenges, we resort to conformity by: improving our appearances, adapting/adjusting to differing lifestyles or environs, study and practice the social skills of the culture we live and work in, improve our communication skills, we may review and modify our health and work habits. In times of financial insecurities, many pursue ongoing education.

For many reasons, conformity is seen as necessary. In many ways, and as the result of the degree of our personal efforts to conform, the benefits generally

represent a much better quality of life than that of being a non-conformist.

The Bad: Rebellion

They call 'emselves rebels for a reason. It was/is a common cry among folks in the South that 'the South shall rise again!' Historical and anthropological studies suggest that conformity was never a resolve to the descendents of those who fought in the Civil War. In contrast, the North has ever since imposed economic hardship and political exploitation upon the Southern culture. This conflict of clashing cultural values was acknowledged by the century-long efforts of the industrialized North to deny the South resources for the so called Reconstruction of the South. One such example of difficulties with conformity is **culture-clash**. Although of similar Semitic background, when the North meets the South, it is like "déjà vu all over again", as Yogi Bera once said. When one's own values are challenged in order to fit the values of another, sparks can fly.

culture clash *n.* a conflict arising from the interaction of people with different cultural values. ~ *World English Dictionary*

Other examples of the challenges with conformity may include: learning how to abide under unjust rulers [corrupt government], the

demands and obstacles of political correctness in all its forms, confronting immoral social norms, coercion by bosses and peers, and outright bullying by the same. In today's political spectrum, many call themselves moderates - a person who takes a position in the political center. They just can't seem to find a worthy candidate, someone they can agree more than disagree with. Such a position reminds me of those who ride the fence whom Elijah the prophet warned to choose one or the other, but choose. It doesn't bode well with YHWH, let alone people, to not conform [to accept and abide by] one way or the other. Non-conformity speaks of confusion by any other name. In as fast paced and confusing times as it is in the lives of both children and adults, is it any wonder that many consider themselves non-conformists. The [false] presumption is that there one may find some semblance of security – security based upon one's own sense of rights and wrongs. Of course as D. Myers suggested, this path leads to delusion.

The ugly

It is, at the very least, difficult to relate to a society that

does not share in one's values. For example, one who has developed to level 1 of *Kohlberg's stages of moral development* may actually share outcomes with another who has developed to level 3 - difficulty in matters of communications as well as relations.

Level 1 (Pre-Conventional)

The pre-conventional level of moral reasoning is especially common in children, although adults can also exhibit this level of reasoning. Reasoners at this level judge the morality of an action by its direct consequences. The pre-conventional level consists of the first and second stages of moral development, and is solely concerned with the self in an egocentric manner. A child with pre-conventional morality has not yet adopted or internalized society's conventions regarding what is right or wrong, but instead focuses largely on external consequences that certain actions may bring.

Level 2 (Conventional)

The post-conventional level, also known as the principled level, consists of stages five and six of moral development. There is a growing realization that individuals are separate entities from society, and that the individual's own perspective may take precedence over society's view; they may disobey rules inconsistent with their own principles. These people live by their own abstract principles about right and wrong—principles that typically include such basic human rights as life, liberty, and justice. Because of this level's "nature of self before others", the behavior of post-conventional individuals, especially those at stage six, can be confused with that of those at the pre-conventional level.

Level 3 (Post-Conventional)

People who exhibit post-conventional morality view rules as useful but changeable mechanisms—ideally rules can maintain the general social order and protect human rights. Rules are not absolute dictates that must be obeyed without question. Contemporary theorists often speculate that many people may never reach this level of abstract moral reasoning.

As valid as this theory seems, critics have suggested that while the latter may likely consider the first as ego-

[FYI]

	View of Persons	Social Perspective Lvl
6	Sees how human fallibility and frailty are impacted by communication	Mutual respect as a universal principle
5	Recognize that contracts will allow persons to increase welfare of both	Contractual perspective
4	Able to see abstract normative systems	Social systems perspective
3	Recognize good and bad intentions	Social relationships perspective
2	Sees that a) others have goals and preferences, b) either conform to or deviate from norms	Instrumental egoism
1	No VOP: only self & norm are recognized	Blind egoism

The American Association of Psychology defines conformity as, *A type of social influence expressed through exposure to the views of a majority and our submission to those views.*

Considering Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Stages of Development (chart at the left), at what stage of moral development do you think would best define an individual that is no longer vulnerable to social influences and conformity?

Consider this question from both an individualistic and collective culture (Oriental, India, Chinese, etc.) ... 1 = lowest, 6 = highest.

Individual vs. collective,

Individualistic cultures are those who promote self-interest and individual rights, and is characterized by low levels of mutual dependence between individuals; rather than the collective needs and interests of others.

Values val-yooz - Beliefs of a person or social group in which they have an emotional investment (either for or against something)

centered; the first may likely consider the latter judgmental. In situations where they seek common ground *compromise* becomes

the most recommended remedy.

The Ugly: Manipulation by persuasion

Roget's Thesaurus (2009) suggests that conform (verb) means to,

V. conform to, conform to rule; accommodate oneself to, adapt oneself to; rub off corners. be regular &c. adj.; move in a groove; follow observe the rules, go by the rules, bend to the rules, obey the rules, obey the precedents; comply with, tally with, chime in with, fall in with; be guided by, be regulated by; fall into a custom, fall into a usage; follow the fashion, follow the crowd, follow the multitude; pass muster, do as others do, hurler avec les loups; stand on ceremony; when in Rome do as the Romans do; go with the stream, go with the flow, swim with the stream, swim with the current, swim with the tide, blow with the wind; stick to the beaten track &c. (habit) 613;

keep one in countenance.

For clarity, nonconformity means,

V. be uncomfortable &c. adj.; abnormalize; leave the beaten track, leave the beaten path; infringe a law, infringe a habit, infringe a usage, infringe a custom, break a law, break a habit, break a usage, break a custom, violate a law, violate a habit, violate a usage, violate a custom; drive a coach and six through; stretch a point; have no business there; baffle all description, beggar all description.

Compromise - *n.* Noun: compromise

1. A middle way between two extremes
2. An accommodation in which both sides make concessions

Verb: compromise

1. Make a compromise; arrive at a compromise
 2. Settle by concession
 3. Expose or make liable to danger, suspicion, or disrepute
- ~ [WordWeb.info]

... or more accurately, a concession to something detrimental or pejorative: a compromise of morality.

To NOT conform to our bio-ecology, is to violate the social norm, to break the rules, to violate the customs of the people among whom one may dwell.

In his book *The Pursuit of Happiness: What Makes a Person Happy-And Why*, D. Myers (1993) concludes that, "well-being is found in the renewal of disciplined life-styles, committed relationships, and the giving and receiving of acceptance." To the Western thinking individual, this is the accepted rule. Universally, such are the ways of the spirit of man - regardless of their origins.

I sometimes quote Sean Connery from the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989) when he said "My boy, we are pilgrims in an unholy land". So, is there such a thing as a place where a universal value system exists that offers positive change and permanence in people's lives while at the same time protecting the freedom to pursue it? Some would say that in times past, the USA represented that for many. Today it seems like only a dream from the past. If we dare to think outside our boxes, we may realize that there is actually a way.

Spiritual conformity

The word 'conform' is not found in the original Hebrew, Chaldean, or Aramaic languages of the First Covenant scriptures. However, the English word 'conform' (with variations) *is* found in the New Covenant [NT].

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed^{G4832} to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Rom 8:29, RNKJV)

And be not conformed^{G4832} to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of YHWH. (Rom 12:2)

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable^{G4833} unto his death; (Phil 3:10)

Mickelson's *Enhanced Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionaries* (2008)² defines the above as,

2 Mickelson's *Dictionaries* – was founded upon, and is grounded in, the 1550 Stephanus Greek text called the Textus Receptus, upon Noah Webster's 1833

G4832 συμμορφός *summorphos* (soom-mor-fos') adj.
1. jointly formed
2. (*figuratively*) similar

G4964 συσχηματίζω *suschematizo* (soos-khay-mat-id'-zo) v.
1. to fashion alike, i.e. conform to the same pattern (*figuratively*)

G4833 συμμορφῶ *summorphoo* (soom-mor-foh'-o) v.
1. to render like
2. (*figuratively*) to assimilate

Employing the principle of inversion, defining something by what it is not (by its opposite), in *Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions [BDB]* (2009) we find the antonym of *conform* as *deviate*.

DEVIATE - **H5753** - Original: עוול, - Transliteration: `aval, - Phonetic: aw-val'

Definition:

1. to act wrongfully or unjustly, [to] deviate from a. (Piel) to act wrongfully
Origin: a primitive root
TWOT entry: 1580
Part(s) of speech: Verb

Vine's Complete Old Testament Expository Dictionary (2009)³ adds,

Strong's Number: <**H5753**>

Original Word: `awâ

Usage Notes: "to do iniquity." This verb appears in the Bible 17 times. In Arabic this verb appears with the meaning "to bend" or "to deviate from the way." 'Awâ is often used as a synonym of hata', "to sin," as in Psa. 106:6: "We have sinned [hata'] with our

DEFIANCE, n.

1. A daring; a challenge to fight; invitation to combat; a call to an adversary to encounter, if he dare. Goliath bid defiance to the army of Israel.
2. A challenge to meet in any contest; a call upon one to make good any assertion or charge; an invitation to maintain any cause or point.
3. Contempt of opposition or danger; a daring or resistance that implies the contempt of an adversary, or of any opposing power. Men often transgress the law and act in defiance of authority. ~ Webster's (1828)

revised translation, and upon the complete 1890 dictionaries of James Strong (which have been updated and tremendously enhanced by my careful efforts).

3 Stergiou, C. (2010). *Vine's complete Old Testament expository dictionary* (2009): *The Word* (Ver. 3.2.1.1167) [Computer software]. Corfu, Greece.

fathers, we have committed iniquity [ʾawâ], we have done wickedly [rashaʼ]."

Usage Number: 2

Part Of Speech: Noun

Strong's Number: <H5771>

Original Word: ʾawon

Usage Notes: "iniquity; guilt; punishment." This noun, which appears 231 times in the Old Testament, is limited to Hebrew and biblical Aramaic. The prophetic and poetic books employ ʾawon with frequency. The Pentateuch as a whole employs the word about 50 times. In addition to these, the historical books infrequently use ʾawon. The first use of ʾawon comes from Cain's lips, where the word takes the special meaning of "punishment": "And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear" (Gen. 4:13).

The most basic meaning of ʾawon is "iniquity." The word signifies an offense, intentional or not, against God's law. This meaning is also most basic to the word hatta't, "sin," in the Old Testament, and for this reason the words hatta't and ʾawon are virtually synonymous ...

Obviously, conformity to Yahweh's will does not include assimilation to the spirit of man's ways. Au contraire, as Reuben might say today! It specifically speaks to 'the way', or conformity to the will and character of Yahweh. The Apostle Paul clearly states this in a single verse found in the book of Romans.

And be not conformed^{G4832} to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of YHWH. (Rom 12:2)

Conformity from/to what?

Conformity to Yahweh's will is a very different matter than what it means in man's world. While in the world, we conform for both good and sometimes bad reasons because we rely upon faulty human reasoning. So how is it so different?

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (Rom 7:22-23).

The saints are those who have generally experienced life in its fullest, yet are capable of responding to

Yahweh's call to change. Part of the process of converting [renewing of the mind] is fulfilling the instruction to come out of the way of the spirit of man, this world.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. (Rev 18:4, KJV)

The motivation is obvious, nobody wants curses to befall them and everybody wants to live a happy and peaceful life abundantly.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (2Cor 6:17, KJV)

... renew the mind in accordance to YHWH's will,

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of YHWH. (Rom 12:2)

... and abide by the faith of the saints by proving,

... what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of YHWH.

The price? Just what do we leave behind?

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom 8:5-8)

And to what end are the saints promised?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

Great promises! But how, one may ask?

Yahweh's plan for mankind: Promises of Yahweh

Yahweh promises entry into the family of Elohim, that is, the Father's house [NewJerusalem] and brother to YHUSHUA, His own son (Rom 8:14)! Imagine! Your name becoming Elohim <fill in the blank here>.

brother and sisters to Yahushua, sons and daughters of Elohim Yahweh! To become like Him in every way! But, and here's the catch, it is conditional.

No, we can't just accept **Iesous** (G2424) in our hearts, nor by the many false teachings of the world. We must adhere to, abide by, and complete our current lives in keeping with certain rules. What rules?

*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** (Matt 7:22-23)*

Iniquity.

G458 ἀνομία anomia (an-om-ee'-ah) n.

1. illegality, i.e. violation of law
2. (*genitive case*) wickedness [from G459]

KJV: iniquity, X transgress(-ion of) the law, unrighteousness

Root(s): G459

G459 ἀνομος anomos (an'-om-os) adj.

1. lawless
2. (*negatively*) not subject to (the Jewish) law
3. (*by implication*) a Gentile
4. (*positively*) wicked

[from G1 (as a negative particle) and G3551]

KJV: without law, lawless, transgressor, unlawful, wicked

It is the plain truth that most refuse to accept and outright reject an open promise of salvation. Why? By reason of the spirit of man and our affinity to conform to the ways of the world, many minds have become obsessed with the pleasures of the now, lives of hedonistic pursuits ... "*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God*".

So what is the final answer? Yahushua tells us Himself through inspiration with the Prophet John,

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (Rev 22:14).

So what Where do we start?

For those who might ask, we offer this outline as a guide.

1. How?
 1. Repent

1. Accept and abide in 'the way(s)' of YHWH [Torah and Yahshua's life explains]
 1. The way - If you love me, keep my commands
 2. *Faith plus works* required
2. Be immersed
 1. Burial of old man
 2. Reborn to new man
 1. Conceived/born again in spirit
3. Laying on of hands
 1. receiving the gift of Ruach Chodesh - the Comforter
4. Renewing your mind
 1. Is a process
 1. of displacing the spirit of man (unlearn way of spirit of man) with 'the way' of the Ruach Chodesh (thinking like YHWH – see Torah, the schoolmaster)
 1. Guided by Comforter though
 1. Is a slow process of quickening (or converting/conversion) from the spirit of man to the spirit of YHWH)
 2. Requires life's experience
 1. applying those things revealed
 2. putting it to practice
 3. Behavior may first lead attitude (spirit)
 4. Assimilation to YHWH's will
 1. total behavioral and cognitive changes
5. Spiritual maturity – when the tongue and spirit of man has been harnessed, then, attitude now leads behavior, the Comforter as its guide.
 1. ... one now hungers for YHWH's truth
 2. Ultimately, full conversion upon final quickening from physical to spirit
 1. Upon Yahshua's return and the finale of White Throne Judgment

Conclusion

There are two inviolable laws, regardless of one's environ: Do good, good happens; and, Do bad, bad happens. From the above scripture quotes, we can see that the spirit of man is bent of doing bad. It is, after all, at enmity with Yahweh [seeks to be defiant and rebellious]. Bob Dylan once captured this truth in his lyrics to *The Long Black Coat* (1989).

For Your Consideration

Scenario: **secularist** (*n.*)

1. An advocate of secularism; someone who believes that religion should be excluded from government and education. [WordWeb.info]

Consideration: We read in Matthew 23:23, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

How would you explain Matthew 23:23 to a secularist?

Secularism (*adj.*) - Adjective: secular

1. Of or relating to the doctrine that rejects religion and religious considerations
2. Characteristic of or devoted to the temporal world as opposed to the spiritual world
3. Not concerned with or devoted to religion ~ [WordWeb.info]

For comments, essays, articles, and/or suggestions, please respond to: TTSAOY, c/o: D Lacey, 6801 W Kings Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382

*Preacher was a talkin' there's a sermon he gave,
He said every man's conscience is vile and depraved,
You cannot depend on it to be your guide
When it's you who must keep it satisfied.
It ain't easy to swallow, it sticks in the throat,
She gave her heart to the man
In the long black coat.*

Psychological studies have proven this to be factual. In a cross-sectional study it was found that we make 45% correct versus 65% wrong guesses over our lifetimes. This does not promise a successful life. How much more so, then, should we consider accepting a proven success rate of 100% [rhetorical question]?

Our final resolve is to repent, turn 180' from our past; and conform by renewing our minds to the promises made by no greater authority than Yahweh himself.

A last suggestion to assist might include:

6. Final resolve is to seek to better ones self
 1. seek out moral authority
 2. accept truth
 3. repent (change self behaviors via behavior leading or attitude leading)
 4. conform (renew your mind)
7. be spiritually minded,
 1. repentance
 1. turn 180 from sin
 2. immersion
 1. oath of allegiance
 3. laying on of hands
 1. ... to receive Comforter as your life's

- guide
4. Study
 1. Renewing of mind
 1. ... by receive spiritual food needed for growth
 2. Congregate with like-minded others
 1. Social support (iron sharpens iron)
5. Prayer
 1. Communicate with YHWH & Yahshua
 1. ... they love to hear from you!

May blessings, promises, happiness ensue.

D Lacey, SMin, TTSAOY



Scriptural Allusions II

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. (1Cor 15:33)

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. (Matt 15:14)

Spiritual Discernment

By this we know that we love the children of YHVH, when we love YHVH, and keep his commandments. (1John 5:2)

By this we know that we are the children God,.... The Ethiopic version reads, "by this know that we love God"; which, in connection with what follows, makes a tautology, and is a proving "idem per idem": whereas the apostle's view is to show when love to the saints is right; and that is,

when we love God, and keep his commandments: love to the brethren may arise from such a cause, as may show that it is not brotherly love, or of a spiritual kind; it may arise from natural relation, or civil friendship, or from a benefit or favour received from them, and from some natural external excellency seen in them; and a man may do acts of love and kindness to the brethren, from what may be called good nature in himself, or with sinister views; but true love to the brethren springs from love to God: such who love the saints aright, and by which they may know they do so, they love them because they themselves love God, and in obedience to his command; they love them because they belong to God, and are the objects of his love; because his grace is wrought in them, and his image stamped upon them.



If you stand up and be counted, from time to time you may get yourself knocked down. But remember this: A man flattened by an opponent can get up again. A man flattened by conformity stays down for good.

~ **Thomas J. Watson**

The Feast Days of Yahweh (2013)

- Abib 1	-	Mar 14
- Yahshua's Kiddush & Renewing Covenant (at Abib 13 even)	-	Mar 26
- Passover Memorial (at Abib 14 even)	-	Mar 27
I, II Passover Feast	Abib 15-21	Mar 28- Apr 3
- Wave Sheaf	Abib 16	Apr 4
III Feast of First Fruits	Abib 16 + 49	May 17
IV Feast of Trumpets	Day 1 of 7 th new moon	Sep 8
V Atonement	Day 10 of 7 th new moon	Sep 17
VI Feast of Booths	Day 15-21 of 7 th new moon	Sep 22- 28
VII Last Great Day (8 th Day)	Day 22 of 7 th new moon	Sep 29

Rosh Chodesh 5, July 2013

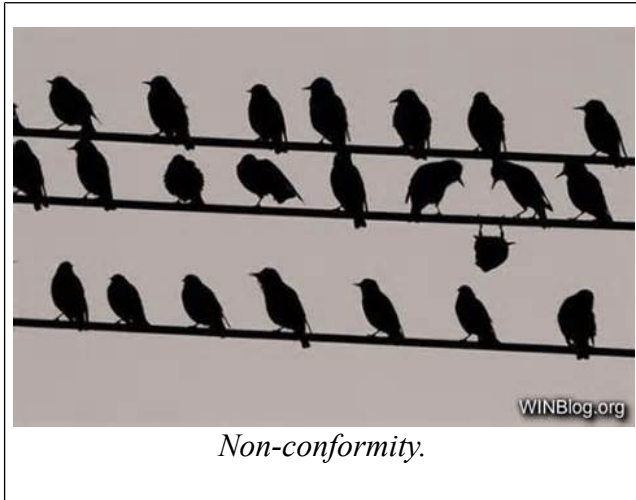
The new moon should be visible within the realm of Israel on July 10, 2013 after sunset.

Data for June:

Sunset	7:47 PM (JST)
Moonset	8:58 PM
Illumination	2%
Alt.	6.5'
Azim.	102'

#599 - New Moon Report - July 2013 - Fifth Biblical Month July 10th at sunset in Israel ushers in the new moon of the fifth Biblical month! The new moon was sighted by Yoel Halevi. Also Arie Levi sighted it at 19:44 Courtesy of - The Karaite Korner: New Moon Reports

Lighter Side



Non-conformity.

From: Funniest Political Quotes of All Time

"I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

~ President John Kennedy, at a dinner honoring Nobel Prize winners of the Western Hemisphere, the White House, April 29, 1962

... and,

"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born."

~ Ronald Reagan, The New York Times, September 22, 1980



Conformity

Comments/replies from last months issue: 'Confusion'

Matters of Discernment

The articles submitted for last months Chodesh Report were greatly appreciated. All articles offered sufficient scriptural references to the reader to guide them through a personal Bible study for the topic. It is always good to remember that the prophet (teacher) not only warns against imminent accountability; but, the prophet should always offer the better way for a person to take.

In his book *Glimpses of the Devil* (Peck, 2005)⁴, M. Scott Peck shares information from his conversations with Malachi Martin, renowned exorcist, wherein Martin reveals to Peck, based upon his personal experiences, only a small percentage of those who claim to have spiritual problems are valid. Peck and Martin jointly agree on this fact. Peck concludes that it is indeed a rare phenomenon that such matters actually exist.

We glean from these shared insights that in most cases presumed spiritual issues are more often simply issues involving 'problems with life'.

The spirit [heart] of man is cunning, and deceitful above all things (Jer 17:9). As this issue has discussed, our human thoughts are mostly driven by powers of influence and an insatiable desire for conformity. As a result, we absorb many errant and adapted notions (such as errant religious teachings) through which mental filters we can unintentionally make false assumptions rather than to confront the possibility of 'personal developmental deficit(s)'.

Conclusion: Probabilities suggest that about 95% of all counseling will address 'problems of life' rather than presumed 'spiritual' issues. Because of this human precondition, the Chaplain's approach to counseling should first consider addressing the spirit of man.

For the word of YHVH is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

⁴ Peck, S. (2005). *Glimpses of the Devil*. New York: Simon & Shuster.

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