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*“That the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory,  
may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge  
of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened”*

*- Ephesians 1:17-18a*

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### **The Burden of Conscious Conformity**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” - Romans 12:2

For long the Church has substituted spiritual awareness with mental judgment of what is right or wrong, thereby appearing to have 'a form of godliness' but lacking the ability to display the evidence of consistent holy living. In doing this, the Church had mentally decided what is acceptable and what isn't and subjected believers to a conscious effort to do right and shun wrong!

Unfortunately, this is not the way of God. God's way can be easily understood from a child's growth process to a state of physical and mental maturity. While a child has to (most times by the parents help) consciously take in food to ensure sustenance and growth, the effect of that food to produce the desired physical and mental growth is never a conscious thing. God has already put a system in place where anyone taking in the right food will automatically produce growth; no one puts effort into eating the right food and then goes on to, with their own effort, cause the food to produce growth in their body! Hence, no matter how much energy goes into a parent's effort to get their child to behave in a certain mature way, the child would never be able to produce such behaviour consistently until or unless he has grown and hence matured to that extent. The problem with 'forcing' a child to relate at levels that do not reflect his actual level of true growth is that once the parent assumes that they can trust that level of behaviour, then the inconsistencies surface, revealing the obvious lack of depth and resulting in disappointments.

This has been the way of the church which has resulted in many neglecting 'process' in their impatience and have crowned people (or even themselves) as spiritual leaders, only for the lack of depth to always result in inconsistencies; their lives become a proof of a life that is *"having a form of godliness but denying its power"* ([2 Timothy 3:5](#)). Having 'a form' means appearing to have the same mind as someone but not being able to produce the same positive effect when tested without notice - without a chance to prepare for what is coming. This is what has characterised the church and its various movements. Men have started ministries and then try to produce many of their kinds in order to sustain their ministry. Sometimes this challenge to consciously conform is well intentioned, however, no matter how well intentioned it is, it does and cannot become correct.

The latest 'movement' to be already going down this path of enforcing conscious conformity is the 'apostolic'! The real purpose and value of the apostolic is being consciously or unconsciously replaced with conscious conformity represented by perceived need for uniformity in language (use of certain words), appearance or even mode of teaching the Word of God. But what is the value in speaking the same language but yet lacking in the actual meaning and depth of those words as they concern the accomplishment of God's purpose on the face of the earth? Speaking the same 'language' is important to the corporate existence of any community; however every member of such a community MUST be allowed to develop the proper use of such language through gaining an understanding rather than a pressure to conform.

The greatest burden of conscious conformity is that people try to live up to certain values and in so doing, lack a sense of the importance of process, which would have produced those same values in them at their right time. The burden on people to live up to what they aren't, means that on their own they never lose the reality of their true spiritual positioning, which they know does not live up to the expectation created by their general appearance or form of 'knowing' as consciously displayed in their Church communities, by the eloquent use of popular words and phrases etc.

One of the greatest problems to have faced the 21st century Church is having discovered that we had been building and raising groups upon groups of baby-believers and keeping them that way simply because we had substituted spiritual maturity or 'unconscious' conformity with a conscious conformity - our false measure of spiritual growth. If the apostolic is to be a success, their most of necessity be a continuous alignment to its original intent by God and a departure from anything that will be tantamount to developing 'a form'. If those of us with an understanding of the times and an awareness of the apostolic do not take heed, we will soon find ourselves to be building 'another' version of the old structure!

The Bible admonishes us to *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"* ([Proverbs 22:6](#)). This verse of scriptures does not ask us to MAKE a child to act in certain ways but rather that we should teach and guide them in the right thing (the truth) and they will grow up to positively act on it. If a child is found being a child, no one will blink an eye, however, when a person perceived to be mature acts like a child, many hearts can be broken in the process. Let a child be a child is not the same thing as letting a child STAY a child. So let always teach people to live in accordance to where they stand spiritually while we continue to present them with the word of truth, which is well able to produce the much desired spiritual advancement or growth in them. We who understand the times must continue to teach the truth rather than 'enforce' the truth in others. This enforcement or better put, conformity, is the unseen and hence unconscious process that is already set to happen!