

and sin can cause us to conform to a sinful standard.

Hold up a paper cup, and explain that the cup represents humans. Give the cup to one student, and ask him or her to name one sin that many students commit. After the student names the sin, instruct him or her to crush the cup just a little bit. Repeat this with each student, asking each one to name a sin and crush the cup a little bit. When you're finished, the cup should be completely crushed. Hold the cup up so everyone can see it.

SAY: I'd like you to look at what our lives look like without Christ's control.

ASK:

- What's the end result of a life that's full of sin?
- Why do some people choose to live like this?

Read Romans 12:1-2 aloud to students. **ASK:**

- What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
- Why is it important for a sacrifice to be acceptable to God?
- What makes a sacrifice acceptable?
- How can we be living sacrifices?

Hold up an uncrumpled cup. Explain to students that the cup is like Christ. It's perfect and unaffected by sin. Then hold up the cup students helped destroy. **ASK:**

- What do I need to do to make this ruined cup get back to its original shape?

Allow students to share their answers. Then slowly slide the destroyed cup over the good one, forcing the crushed cup to conform to the good cup. (You might want to use a plastic cup instead of a second paper cup.) The plastic cup is less likely to bend, and it's an excellent contrast with the paper cup. **ASK:**

- What just happened? Explain.

SAY: Being a living sacrifice isn't easy. When we conform to Christ, we're sacrificing ourselves. The process to become a living sacrifice isn't easy, and it's often painful. But it's essential as we conform to Christ.

Have students get in pairs. Ask pairs to brainstorm ways they can conform to the image Christ set before them in Scripture. After one minute, ask each pair to choose its best idea and choose a representa-

tion to come forward and write the idea on the uncrumpled paper cup. When the ideas have been written on the cup, read each idea aloud.

SAY: I'd like you to choose one area of your life that doesn't conform to Christ's life. You might choose one of the things that we listed on the cup or something else. I'll give you a minute to think.

Allow students to pray silently as they think about areas of their lives that don't conform to Christ.

SAY: I'd like you to make a commitment today to let Christ have this area of your life and allow him to conform you more to him.

Distribute slips of paper and pencils. Ask students to write the areas they want to give to Christ on the slips of paper. When students are finished, have them fold their papers. Pass the perfect cup around, and ask students to place their papers in the cup. Ask a few students to pray for the group.



SKIT

No One Rules My Life!

Teenagers will present a drama that illustrates the constant pressure people feel to conform to the norms of culture.

SUPPLIES: aerobics-class music

TIME: 5 to 15 minutes



Characters:

- Aerobics instructor (dressed in workout gear, very driving and controlling);
- Rebel (in trendy, casual clothes);
- any number of Participants (in trendy, casual clothes)

Script:

(Offstage music strikes up. An aerobics instructor bounces onto stage right followed by the Participants who gather around stage center and right and obey the instructor to the letter. Rebel is also there, obeying at first but wanting to test boundaries a bit too. Rebel is not as robotically obedient to the Instructor as the rest of the Participants.)

INSTRUCTOR: All right, folks. Are we rebels?

PARTICIPANTS: Yeah!

INSTRUCTOR: Are we free thinkers?

PARTICIPANTS: Yeah!

INSTRUCTOR: Do we defy convention?

PARTICIPANTS: Yeah!

INSTRUCTOR: Then let's do it. Rebel! Defy convention!

(Participants commence a choreographed "rebel move" by walking around punching their fists into the air or something similarly aggressive. They stay on the right side of the stage. Rebel begins to wander across to the left side.)

INSTRUCTOR: *(Seeing Rebel moving astray to the left side)* Excuse me. We don't go over to that area. Back here, thanks. *(To the crowd in general)* All right, now let's party. *(Participants go into a choreographed party*

move such as wild dancing or acting as if drinking beer, then wiping their mouths.) Party hard. Remember the drinks. Come on, you can drink more than that. It's just a bit of fun! Now what about the free sex? *(Participants walk round impersonally high-fiving any and everybody or something similar to give the impression of short, impersonal contacts.)* That's it. Remember, sex is just a leisure activity. No commitment, no responsibility. Who's in charge of your life?

PARTICIPANTS: Me!

INSTRUCTOR: OK, then get out there and buy it. *(Participants go into a shopping spree series of movements.)* Come on. Buy another one! You deserve it! *(Rebel is looking somewhat bored and begins to stray again to the left.)* Excuse me, can you come away from there? *(Rebel returns again reluctantly.)* Now, let's pioneer new frontiers. No moral values!

PARTICIPANTS: No moral values!

INSTRUCTOR: I said no moral values!

PARTICIPANTS: No moral values! *(Rebel has again started to stray.)*

INSTRUCTOR: Look, will you please get back with the rest?!

REBEL: *(The music is still going and the Participants are still doing their movements.)* Why can't I try over there?

INSTRUCTOR: Because we just don't, OK?

REBEL: Why not?

INSTRUCTOR: *(Trying to push Rebel into the crowd again)* Look, you are going to miss the spiritual exercises. Here we go, everyone. Say, “God is anything I want him to be.”

PARTICIPANTS: God is anything I want him to be! *(Continue chanting quietly.)*

REBEL: Hey—why can’t I go over there?

INSTRUCTOR: *(Giving up)* All right, stop the music. Stop please. *(Music dies and Participants start looking a little bewildered now that their direction has suddenly vanished. They cluster right a little away from Rebel who is center stage. They continue to chant quietly for a little bit, but slowly stop.)* Listen, we only go over there a couple of times a year—Easter and Christmas or funerals and that sort of thing. It’s...well...it’s...

REBEL: Well?

INSTRUCTOR: *(As if dealing with a distasteful subject which he or she’d rather not discuss)* Well, it’s primitive. It’s superstitious. It’s boring. And you’ll miss out on all this. *(Rebel is not satisfied.)* Can’t you see how out of step you’ll be?

REBEL: Well, what if I want to try it out? It’s a free country, isn’t it?

INSTRUCTOR: *(Trying manipulation)* Well, I guess. It’s your life. If you want to be totally bound by an ancient set of rules and regulations that will inhibit your choice and self-expression...*(Breaks down in frustration.)* Look—it’s for old ladies. It’s a crutch for those who can’t make their own decisions. *(Suddenly realizes Participants have stopped their chant.)*

Excuse me, can you please keep going with the spiritual thing?

PARTICIPANTS: *(Like naughty school children who have been caught, they immediately go back to quietly chanting in the background, but one sidles over to the Rebel and is quickly guided back to the crowd by the Instructor, who then turns to Rebel for one last try.)* Come on. Are you a rebel or aren’t you? You want to kick the system, don’t you?

REBEL: Yeah, I do. But I’m kicking a different system. I want to see what this is.

INSTRUCTOR: *(Throwing hands in air)* OK. It’s your problem. *(To Participants)* OK, group, let’s go. *(Yelling the chant line)* It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you’re sincere!

(With Participants following and spiritedly taking up the new chant, Participants follow Instructor offstage right, although the Participant who sidled over to Rebel before is obviously last to leave and lingers with a last look at Rebel, who is left standing center stage. Rebel turns to stage left and walks into it—new territory where no one has been during this drama. With an audible and interested “Hmmm,” Rebel looks around stage left and then walks off stage left as if on to a whole new life.)

