

## Silly Putty

In 1943, rubber shortages during World War II led to the invention of Silly Putty, a classic American toy. When the government searched for something plentiful to use in developing synthetic rubber, researchers began working with silicone. An inventor at General Electric added a little boric acid to silicone oil, and a gooey, bouncy substance resulted.

It didn't work as a substitute for rubber, but after the war a manufacturer marketed it to the public as a toy called Silly Putty in March 1950.

Apollo 8 astronauts used Silly Putty to stabilize their tools in the zero-gravity environment of space, storing it in sterling silver eggs. The toy still sells well today, with manufacturer Binney & Smith producing 20,000 eggs of Silly Putty a day. The substance can be stretched, shaped into any form, rolled into a ball and bounced, or pressed on pictures and newsprint to make impressions.

In Romans 12:2, the Apostle Paul warns believers against conforming to this world. The verse gives the idea of being pressed into a pattern or mold. Our culture tries to shape us according to current ideas, attitudes and lifestyles. Even though we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within, we can end up looking and living like carbon copies of everyone around us.

God calls us to be non-conformists, but not just on the outside. By actively pursuing prayer, Bible study, service and fellowship with other Christians, we will be renewed on the inside. In that way, we will be able to discern and obey God's will, and our lives will be transformed day by day.

If we do not allow God to transform our thinking, then we will be putty in the world's hands – and that's worse than silly.

--Beecher Hunter