

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

I. Right Relationships and Right Living

- a. In all the previous chapters Paul taught the Christian doctrine. But what is the use of doctrine without the application if we do not live what we learn?
- b. In chapters 12 & 13, Paul addressed our relationship with God, with other believers, and to our “enemies”.

II. The Believer’s Relationship to God Full Surrender (vv.1-2)

- a. Dedication is the basis of our relationship with Christ. The body expresses what is in the mind.
- b. There are two “living sacrifices” outlined in the Bible to illustrate Paul’s point.
 1. Isaac (Gen 22) willingly put himself on the altar and would have died in obedience to God’s will – God sent a ram. *Isaac* died just the same, he died to self and willingly yielded himself to God. When Isaac got off the altar he became a “living sacrifice.”
 2. Jesus Christ is the perfect illustration of a “living sacrifice” because He actually died as a sacrifice, in obedience to God’s will. He rose again and is living today seated in heaven.
- c. Present your bodies as a “living sacrifice” = Daily Transforming (good, acceptable & perfect will)
- d. The Greek verb for *present* means to present once and for all. It commands a definite commitment. This is our reasonable service or worship.
- e. This means that every day is a worship experience when your body is submitted to God.
- f. The word transform (*metamorpho*) means to change from within. Our minds are to be “renewed” by God’s Word.
- g. Your mind controls your body, and your will controls your mind. Many people think they can control their will by “willpower”, but they fail as Paul outlined his own failure in Romans 7.
 1. We surrender our will through disciplined prayer. We must pray every day, and let God have His way in everything. Not my will, but “Thy will be done.”

III. We Belong to Each Other (vv.3-8)

- a. We minister to each other, empower each other, and we need each other.
- b. Avoid being spiritually arrogant, and never downgrade or exalt your value to the Body.
- c. As members of the body we have all been given a gift(s) that benefit the whole church.
- d. Prophecy – not prediction, but inspired delivery of warning, exhortation and instruction.
- e. Ministering – any form of practical *service the church renders to people.
- f. Teaching – speaking under direct divine inspiration.
- g. Exhortation – encouraging and comforting people to serve the Lord and be faithful.
- h. Giving – sharing, imparting, and giving of earthly possessions with pure motives.
- i. Leading – a person who is placed in front referring to any position involving superintendence.
- j. Mercy/Compassion – sharing with those in need and going beyond earthly possessions.

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. We best demonstrate our understanding of the Word of God in our application.
- b. What are the benefits of spiritual gifts?
 1. Believers who know and humbly operate in their spiritual gifts develop a healthy self-esteem.
 2. The use of spiritual gifts are to glorify God.
- c. **Service to God begins with a personal decision and is followed by dedication.**