

1. The Motive for Sacrifice: God's Mercy

Romans 11:33-36

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV84) – "Christ's love compels us...."

2. The Challenge of Sacrifice: Present your Bodies as Living Sacrifices

☞ The offer of our bodies:

The debate: Does this really mean our *bodies*?

The place of the body in NT teaching:

➤ The Call to Sexual Purity:

1 Corinthians 6:15, 18-20; Romans 6:12-14.

➤ The Body Representing Life:

Philippians 1:20-21

Three examples of bodily offering:

- **Our minds:** Set a goal to fill our minds with good biblical input for every secular input
- **Our tongues:** Set a goal to speak one God-honoring word of encouragement, praise or thankfulness for every critical word or complaint
- **Our hands & feet:** Set a goal to invest myself in God-centered ministry for every entertainment I enjoy.

☞ Living Sacrifices

The death of the one "Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world," has swept all dead victims from off the altar of God, to make room for the redeemed themselves as "living sacrifices" to Him who made "Him to be sin for us"; while every outgoing of their grateful hearts in praise, and every act prompted by the love of Christ, is itself a sacrifice to God of a sweet-smelling savor. (Jamieson, R)

3. The Goal of sacrifice: Worship Which is Holy and Pleasing to God

☞ Sacrifice and Surrender

The World's Currency:

Fame, Wealth, Power, Physical comfort and pleasure

The World's Beatitudes:

- Blessed are the famous, because they are envied.
- Blessed are the rich, for they can have all they want.
- Blessed are the powerful, for they can control others.
- Blessed are the sexually liberated, for they can fully satisfy themselves.

The Alternative: The way of sacrifice & surrender...

2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 8:5-9

Romans 12:1 is as bold a call to total commitment as there is anywhere in the sacred writings. It applies equally to all—to the professor, to the preacher, to the pianist, to high schoolers—to everyone! It is for the entire Church. We must put away the medieval thinking that makes a distinction between clergy and laity—the idea that ministers and missionaries should have 100 percent commitment, but the laity is permitted 75 percent, or 30, or ... The truth is, all believers are called to be totally committed to Christ. (Hughes, R. K.)

☞ Sacrifice vs. the Alternative

Question: What is the alternative to this type of sacrificial offering of ourselves?

Answer: Sin, disobedience, rebellion, apathy...

Satan gives Adam an apple, and takes away Paradise. Therefore in all temptations let us consider not what he offers, but what we shall lose. (Richard Sibbes)

☞ Sacrifice as Worship

The noun translated *worship* is *latreia*, which can mean either *service* or *worship*. The plural can even mean *duties*.

If we are worshiping apart from commitment to God, it is false worship. We are deceiving ourselves if we are doing "Christian things" but are not consecrated to Jesus Christ. Sam Shoemaker said it well: "**To be a Christian means to give as much of myself as I can to as much of Jesus Christ as I know.**" This is why as we grow in the knowledge of his mercy we should be more committed at age 21 than 16, and more so at 35, 45, 60 and 70! (Hughes, R. K.)

1 Samuel 15:22

You will begin to understand the Christian life only when you understand that God does not want your money or your time without yourself. (James Boice)

God is not seeking great worship. He is seeking true worshippers—those who worship in Spirit & in truth. (Scotty Smith)

Two things we each need to pray for in ourselves are:
1. that we would die to what we think about ourselves and
2. that we would die to what others think about us. (Jack Miller)

Test Q: Can I choose to undergo the greatest suffering rather than commit the least sin? (Philip Henry)

☞ Sacrifice and Acceptability

One of the greatest hindrances in coming to Jesus is the excuse of temperament. We make our temperament and our natural affinities barriers to coming to Jesus. The first thing we realize when we come to Jesus is that He pays no attention whatever to our natural affinities. (Chambers, Oswald)

Hebrews 4:14-16

1 John 2:1

Sacrifice and Witness

The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he will stake his life on his belief. (T. S. Eliot)

Beware of worshiping Jesus as the Son of God and professing your faith in him as the Savior of the world, while you blaspheme him by the complete evidence in your daily life that he is powerless to do anything in and through you. (Oswald Chambers)

Romans 12:1 (The Message) So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

Hebrews 13:15–16

A Truth to Remember: We have been bought by God at the cost of the life-blood of Jesus Christ and are thereby deeply indebted to Him.

A Challenge to Consider: Are you willing to rededicate yourself to God this morning, freely offering yourself as a living sacrifice to the praise of His glory?

One thing I heard this morning was...