

“A Living Sacrifice”

Rom. 12:1-2

Introduction:

- A. The Christian offers a unique sacrifice.
 - 1. Unlike the lifeless sacrifices of pagans and Jews.
 - 2. He offers to God a life of reasonable (spiritual) service.
- B. The Christian offers a unique life to God for His use.

Discussion:

- I. He Offers A *Sacrificial* Life. (“A Living Sacrifice”).**
 - A. Sacrificing should cost us something. (cf. 2 Sam. 24:24).
 - B. Sacrificing means forsaking all for Christ. (Lk. 14:33).
 - 1. Sinful pleasures.
 - 2. Fleshly ties.
 - 3. Fleshly advantages. (Phil. 3:3-7).
 - C. Sacrificing means being willing to spend and be spent (cf. 2 Cor. 12:15).
- II. He Offers A *Purified* Life. (“Holy, acceptable unto God”).**
 - A. Made holy by the “mercies of God”.
 - 1. Mercy toward Jews and Gentiles. (ch. 11).
 - 2. Mercy through blood of Christ. (ch. 5:6-10).
 - B. Kept holy by the “mercies of God.”
 - 1. Sin not to reign in mortal bodies. (6:12 with context)
 - 2. Kept holy by walking in light and confessing sin. (1 John 1:7-2:2).
- III. He Offers A *Transformed* Life. (“Not conformed..but transformed”).**
 - A. The conformed person:
 - 1. Measures himself by wrong standard. (Cf. 2 Cor. 10:12).
 - a. The current moral standards of world.
 - b. The current religious standards of world.
 - c. The current social standards of world.
 - d. The current conventional wisdom of the world.
 - 2. Reacts to his world - rather than God's will.
 - a. Positively — loves to be like others for its sake.
 - b. Negatively —loves to be different from others for its sake.
 - c. In either case he lets world control his life.
 - 3. May conform to a different segment of world from another.
 - a. One may conform to his age group.
 - b. Another may conform to his community.
 - c. Another may even conform to the “brotherhood”.
 - B. The transformed person conforms to the will of God.
 - 1. Many activities and customs may be shared by people of world (Cf. 1 Cor. 9).
 - a. The conformed person shares because the world does it.
 - b. The transformed person shares because the will of God allows it.
 - c. The transformed person will be either like or different from another – based on God’s will.
 - 2. Does not blindly follow thinking, practices or customs of any segment of this world.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you ready to present your bodies “a living sacrifice”?
- B. Are ready to be made holy by the mercies of God? (cf. Acts 22:16).