

# The Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2

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## **Romans 12:1-2 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.

<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

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**Our beliefs should  
impact our behavior!**

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Resolution – the act of finding an answer or solution to a conflict, problem; the act of resolving something; an answer or solution to something

The Cross was God's Resolution for sin!

Jesus Christ is the living sacrifice, Holy and pleasing to God!

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***“The problem with much that passes for orthodoxy in this day is not what people believe or even what they do not believe. It is what they believe enough to emphasize.” A.W. Tozer***

The challenge for Christians is to have the mindset that other people should look to them in their time of need. They want someone to help them with their problems and we need to tell them about Jesus. Christians should not be more outgoing but rather more believable.

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# I. A Call to Commitment

## A. The Urgency 12:1

- a) We have little time. **Ephesians 4:1-3** <sup>1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, <sup>3</sup> diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds [us].
- b) Use our time wisely **Ephesians 5:15-16** <sup>15</sup> Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

## B. The Presentation 12:1

- a) How well prepared are you? **Romans 6:12-13** <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. <sup>13</sup> And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.
- b) When yielding or surrendering there is typically hesitation.
- c) Present is ready, willing, able, happy to, willingly offering of self.  
**Romans 6:16** <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?

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“The main problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the alter.”

Unknown



# I. A Call to Commitment

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## c. The Sacrifice 12:1

What kind of Sacrifice does God want?

- a) Living – something that is continuous/laying aside our own desires
- b) Holy – morally and spiritually excellent/to be completely set apart for God and dedicated to His service **1 Peter 1:15-16** <sup>15</sup> But as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; <sup>16</sup> for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.
- c) Pleasing – it is satisfactory (Acceptable to God)/those who are dedicated can participate

## d. Godly Living 12:1

- a) If we consider all that God has done for us, a reasonable response is to offer Him your life.
- b) Daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him.
- c) Any act done for God – To serve God is the only reasonable way to respond to His mercy

# II. A Call to Change

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## A. Do not Conform

- a) The option is not whether we will conform, but rather to whom will we conform?
- b) Separate yourselves / We must be different

**1 John 2:15-16** <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- c) Do not allow the world to shape your lifestyle

## B. A Transformation

- a) To undergo a complete change which under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct
- b) It only comes through Jesus Christ
- c) It is continuous / the change being effected by the Holy Spirit
- d) Would a free slave continue to serve his old master?

# II. A Call to Change

## C. Renew the Mind

- a) Our minds become first informed and then conformed to the pattern of God. **Ephesians 4:22-24** <sup>22</sup> You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; <sup>24</sup> you put on the new self, the one created according to God's [likeness] in righteousness and purity of the truth.
- b) Saturate yourself with the word of God
- c) Memorize God's word
- d) Slow down and let God speak to us so we can hear
- e) Give Him your time

## D. Discern the Will of God

- a) It will be easier if we are close to Him **Ephesians 5:15-17** <sup>15</sup> Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.
- b) Good – beneficial in its effect
- c) Acceptable – pleasing in God's sight
- d) Perfect – complete, nothing needs to be added to what God has provided **Colossians 1:9-14** <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [to Him], bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. <sup>14</sup> We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him.

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