

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Living Sacrifices

Romans 12:1-8

"I urge you...in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices." Romans 12:1

Read Romans 12:1-2.

1. In chapters 1-11, Paul has discussed theology, but from chapter 12 through the end of Romans, Paul discusses practical matters. Why does he devote so much effort to the "theological"?

2. What is the 'therefore' referring to? (11:30-32)

3. In verse 1, what are we called to do and why?

List some ways that God has shown mercy to you. (And thank Him!)

4. Describe the kind of sacrifices that God wants us to be.

What is the significance of being a "living sacrifice"? (Rom. 6:11-13)

5. Worship encompasses all of life, not just what we do on Sunday morning at church.
a. How do we *worship* God in the often-mundane activities of our lives—eating, socializing, babysitting, exercising, carpooling, working?

b. How do we worship God in the attitudes and emotions of our hearts?

6. What must happen before we can "test and approve" (know and agree with) God's will? (v. 2a)

How is this process of transformation possible? (Lk. 11:13; Rom. 8:5-6; 2 Cor. 3:12-18)

7. In what ways do you tend to “conform...to the pattern of this world” (v. 2)? How are verses 1 and 2 an exhortation to you? (2 Cor. 10:2-3)

Read Romans 12:3–8.

8. What does Paul assume about the context in which we are called to live out our faith?

9. What does verse 3 imply about how we should treat other believers?

10. Recall a time when you did not treat others as verse 3 suggests you should. By God’s grace, how can you act differently the next time this situation occurs?

11. Summarize the attitude we should have toward each other regarding the gifts that we have been given. (vv. 3-6)

12. Describe the gifts Paul lists in verses 6–8.

v. 6

v. 7a

v. 7b

v. 8a

v. 8b

v. 8c

How do you see that God has gifted you?

13. What is the purpose of the gifts God gives to us? (v. 5; Eph. 4:12) Encourage others in your group by sharing what gifts you see in them.

What connection do you see between using your spiritual gifts in the body of Christ and presenting yourself as a living sacrifice?