

So How Should I Live Now That I am In Christ? (Romans 12)

I. Live As a Sacrifice on God's Altar (12:1-2)

A. You present yourself as a living sacrifice (1)

1. Living - not a dead animal sacrifice like in the OT
 - a. You are living but totally dedicated to God
 - b. You belong to Him as much as an OT animal sacrifice
 - c. You present Yourself
 - d. You do this because of "the mercies of God" – because of what we have already seen in Romans regarding what God has done for you in salvation and adoption.
2. Holy, acceptable to God –
 - a. you have been made holy in Christ (acceptable to God)
 - b. you are continually striving to live holy before Him because His Spirit lives in you
3. Presenting Yourself to God is your Reasonable Service
 - a. The word "service" here could mean the work you give another or it could describe the spiritual act of worship one gives God.
 - i. In either case, the point is that you owe it. (presenting your body) to God.
4. NOTICE: It is your body that is to be presented to God
 - a. Because of God's mercy He has saved you
 - b. Yet you still live in flesh and in a corrupted world
 - c. We cannot say that God is not concerned with what we do
 - d. He wants our bodies as living sacrifices unto Him
 - e. This involves what we do, see, hear, experience, etc.
 - f. How we use this body determines whether or not we are presenting it to God as a living sacrifice

- In the OT, God had no toleration for people who used His sacrifices for unholy or common things. The sacrifices made were to be strictly dedicated to God and never used for anything else. So it is with your body.

- "God knows my heart" is a common excuse when sin enters our life. Yes, God knows your heart but He has also commanded that you present to Him your body.

B. How do I Present my Body to Him? (v. 2)

1. You Present Your body a Sacrifice by Being Transformed
 - a. You cannot become conformed to the world
 - i. The world cannot decide what you will say, think, or do
 - ii. The world cannot decide how you will act
 - iii. The world will always put pressure on you to be part of its system – and mold your behavior to it.
 - b. You are transformed by having your mind renewed

- i. Notice that you are not simply to follow new rules
 - ii. You are being changed from the inside out
 - iii. Your mind itself will be transformed as you daily fill it with God's word and grow in your relationship with Him.
 - c. Notice the reason for the renewing of your mind
 - i. So you may prove the will of God
 - a. This literally says – “so that you may test and approve” the will of God
 - b. It is speaking of your growing in your understanding of how you live and act as a sacrifice of God.
 - c. The more your mind is renewed the more you understand what God would have you do. (his will)
 - ii. So you may live according to what is good, perfect and acceptable to Him.

II. Live as A Member Of the Body (12:3-8)

A. You Live as an Equally important part of Christ's Body (v.3)

- 1. No member of a body (hand, feet, eyes) can function without the other members.
- 2. Therefore, the member of the body cannot consider himself more important than others.
 - a. This doesn't just mean one person who works hard thinks he is better than other believers.
 - b. More often the person who thinks too highly of himself is the one who doesn't do anything to serve the body but believes that service is not his job.
 - i. For example, the Christian that has no ministry of any kind for the body of Christ is one who thinks too highly of himself and has removed himself from service in the body.
 - ii. When our life focuses only on ourselves and our own comfort, we are thinking too highly of ourselves
 - iii. When we choose our own way rather than God's, we are thinking too highly of ourselves.
 - iv. It is not just pride in one's mind Paul speaks of here. It is the way pride works itself out in our lives.

B. You Live as Part of One Another (v. 4-5)

- 1. You don't all have the same function but you work together
 - a. The body cannot function without all its parts working
 - i. You are part of the person next to you in the church
 - ii. The “Church” here is not some invisible worldwide body (although that is included) – Paul is talking about the local body of believers (in Rome)

iii. The vast majority of the 112 references to the church in the New Testament have to do with the LOCAL congregation.

iv. There is no such thing as a Lone Ranger Christian, God works through His people

2. You have a gift to serve the Body (6-8)

a. Every believer has a gift (or gifts)

b. Every believer is called to use that gift IN THE BODY

c. Prophecy =preaching

III. Live As A Member of the Family (12:9-13)

A. Families Love with an unhypocritical genuine love (v. 9)

B. Families are devoted to one another (v. 10)

C. Families are zealous and diligent in their service to each other (v. 11)

1. (the word “business” here doesn’t mean “doing business” as in the marketplace but “getting things done” It is a haste and an earnest to accomplish something.

D. Families rejoice with each other and endure hardships together (v. 12)

E. Families Give for Each other (v. 13) – speaking of material and financial needs.

- to be a member of a family is to invest yourself in the family, both emotionally and materially.

IV. Live As a Soldier in Battle (12:14-21)

A. Be ready to endure persecution (v. 14)

1. Soldiers usually fight by destroying their enemies, but the believer is called to fight by loving his enemies.

B. Be ready to fight together with your family (v. 15)

1. We stand shoulder to shoulder with each other as we go through the good times and the bad times.

2. We are bound up with our brethren in arms

C. Be ready to help those who cannot fight as hard as you (v. 16)

1. We never leave anyone behind

2. We restore those who have been caught in the snare of sin

D. Be ready to fight with what is good (v. 17, 20-21)

1. We do not fight evil with evil. We fight evil with good

2. We do not seek revenge but we forgive and forget

3. We leave vengeance to God

a. This is a hard battle to fight

b. Our flesh wants revenge

c. We don’t want to be wronged without getting back at someone

E. Be ready to fight for peace with all men (v. 18-19)

1. As much as it depends on you

2. You can’t help what others do

3. Always be ready to forgive

The Christian soldier fights with kindness and with trust in the sovereignty of our God. This is how we defeat our enemies! This is the only course that God has given for us to defeat our enemies!