



Place Your Life Before God

Description

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. (Romans 12:1, AMP)

This last week, I spent a lot of time in Romans 12. This passage of Scripture has really been challenging me lately. I would love to walk through it verse by verse with you and find out what God has for us through it. Please take time to read Romans 12 every day and let's be challenged by God's Word together.

I'm not sure how long this series will last. I'll just do my best to break down this chapter with you and learn as much as possible through it. Come with me on a journey to discover all that God has for us in Romans 12.

Let's start by reading "The Message" version of Romans 12. This will give you a fresh perspective on the chapter and help you prepare your heart for what God wants to show you through this chapter.

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¹⁻² 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. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, **fix your attention on God.** You'll be changed from the inside out. **Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it.** Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, **God brings the best out of you,** develops well-formed maturity in you.

³ I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, **God brings it all to you.** The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

⁴⁻⁶ In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. **Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole**, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. **Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body.** But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, **let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be**, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

⁶⁻⁸ If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

⁹⁻¹⁰ **Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it.** Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; **practice playing second fiddle.**

¹¹⁻¹³ Don't burn out; **keep yourselves fueled and aflame.** Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Don't hit back; **discover beauty in everyone.** If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

²⁰⁻²¹ Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. **Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.**

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Dear Father God, Please prepare our hearts to receive from You this week. Please help each one of us to learn something new from Romans 12 and be challenged to go even further in our walk with You. May You be glorified through our study time and may we come out of it with a deeper walk, stronger faith, and more intense passion for Your Word!

Loving You Forever Lord,

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