

# Present Your Body as a Living Sacrifice!?

Romans 12:1-2

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Introduction...

- What are your thoughts on human sacrifice? Imagine what you would think if I announced today that we would be introducing human sacrifice into our worship of the Lord.
- Paul beseeches us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice... today we will discuss: WHAT this means, WHY we would want to, and HOW we are to go about it.

Part I – What does it mean to present your body to God?

- Perhaps the best way to understand what God is telling us here is to define the word *present*: “to put something at someone else’s complete disposal.”
- Notice also that Paul helps us to understand by telling us that this sacrifice is “living.” (cf. Ephesians 2:1, 4-5)
- God’s will for us is not that we die for Him but rather that we live for Him by using our bodies in such a way that bring glory to Him.
- God defines things further when Paul uses words like “holy” and “acceptable to God.”
- “Reasonable service” could also be thought of as “genuine worship.”
- Genuine worship is intentional worship as contrasted with haphazard worship.
- God wants all of your heart, time, life.

Part II – Why would we want to present our bodies to God?

- The word “therefore” is the key to understanding WHY we would want to present our bodies to God.
- When Paul writes “therefore...” he is referring to the eight previous chapters that describe all the blessing of salvation that are ours in Christ.
- Can you say that you’ve given 100% of yourself to God? Be honest! (cf. Romans 3:23)
- The good news is that even though we deserve punishment, God has given us just the opposite! (cf. Isaiah 61:10)
- Give me one good reason why we wouldn’t want to make ourselves completely available to God?

Part III – How do we present our bodies to God?

- “do not let the world around you squeeze you into its mold!”  
J.B. Phillips paraphrase translation
- Don’t look to those around you to figure out how to act.
- Peter described the disgust of returning to the ways of the sinful flesh. (cf. 2 Peter 2:20-22)
- Remember who you are in Christ!
- In Christ, ours is a life of daily, honest repentance and therefore rejoicing in the forgiveness that is ours in Christ!
- Consider the good advice of the Psalms...Psalm 1:1-3

Conclusion/Review...

- Christ loved us and died for us and therefore we live for Him!

(tuck these notes in your Bible for review and encouragement)