

Presenting our Bodies to the Lord

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Introduction: When reading this text, six observations can be made:

1. The truth is for the Christian.
2. There is urgency in this message.
3. This urgency relates to a personal sacrifice.
4. The sacrifice touches two realms:
The inner and outer person.
5. The sacrifice is essentially spiritual.
6. The sacrifice leads to a practical and radical decision.

At life's deepest level, one was to present himself sacrificially to God at all times.

1. At work or at rest, in bed or on the street, "**Presenting**" happens only when an attitude of sacrifice precedes it.
2. This giving to God involves everything related to our senses, as well as our drives, interests, desires, and dreams.
3. This very act of giving the sum total of all these things to God is to be viewed as our highest expression of worship; there is no higher.

We are to center our thoughts upon the great matter of giving our all to the Lord Jesus. We often sing about it; and too frequently we do not sufficiently mean what we sing. It is a most solemn thing to take these words upon our lips:

***"In full and glad surrender,
I give myself to Thee,
Thine utterly and only
and evermore to be."***

And yet this is exactly what the Lord is asking of us. As Christians, we are faced with two alternatives; we can hand our life over to the One Who has redeemed us by His blood (*I Peter 1:18-19*); or we can, to a very large extent, still run our own life.

Needless to say, the life that is entirely dedicated to the Lord is the only life that is glorifying to God, useful to others, satisfying to ourselves, and disturbing to the devil - and as Christians we should be a constant worry to the enemy.

In Romans 12:1-2 the Lord through His servant, is pleading for our lives to be handed over to Him in entire dedication.

Let us study these great words, and for convenience we shall group them under three main headings. Notice first:

I. THE REQUEST THAT IS MADE.

Every word in these two verses is vital and full of meaning. Notice in verse 1, the great appeal that is made to every Christian:

- a. "**I beseech you...**" Not, "**command you...**" Moses would have said that, but we are not "under the law, but under grace". (Romans 6:14). This was one of Paul's favorite methods of appeal.
- b. "**you ... brethren...**" The appeal to surrender, to give, to dedicate, is only ever made to Christians. Before the sinner can give, he must receive - Psalm 116:12-13 - what shall I give "**... I will take ...**" God appeals to "**you**", to "**brethren**", to present all to Him.

Romans 12:1-2

:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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1: With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brethren, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him, and acceptable by him. **Phillips**

- c. **"that ye present..."** This is a voluntary matter. There are no conscripts in Christ's army. Of our own free will, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are urged to dedicate ourselves to Him, but we are not forced to do it.
- d. **"your bodies..."** There is nothing ambiguous about this appeal. We all know what it meant. ***Have you ever made a present of our body to God?*** To give our body to Him means to give all that we are, and have, and hope to be - the whole man. (Romans 6:3).
- e. **"a living sacrifice..."** The sacrifices offered on Jewish altars were dead. We are to offer a living sacrifice, our whole life to Him, Who gave His life in death for us.
- f. **"holy..."** The root meaning of this word is ***"devoted to the use of"***, or ***"set apart unto"***. When we present ourselves completely to Him, we become wholly devoted to His service, wholly set apart to Him and for Him.
- g. **"acceptable unto God..."** How wonderful it is that we can bring an offering to the Lord that is entirely well - pleasing and fully agreeable to Him. Will you present your body to Him? Why should you? Notice:

II. THE REASON THAT IS GIVEN.

In verse 1, there are three compelling motives for giving our all to the Lord:

- a. Because we are **"brethren"**. Because we have been brought into a new and wonderful relationship with our Father God, through the Lord Jesus Who is not ashamed to call us brethren (Hebrews 2:11).
- b. Because of the **"mercies of God"**. The word ***"therefore"*** takes us back to all that has gone before in chapters 1 to 11 of this epistle. Because of ***"the mercies of God"***, we should feel constrained to present ourselves to Him. Consider the following great mercies:
 1. Justification (3:21-5:21)
 2. Identification (chapter 6)
 3. Unification (7:1-6)
 4. Sanctification (7:7-25)
 5. Emancipation (8:1-17)
 6. Glorification (8:18-32)
 7. Preservation (8:33-39)
- c. Because it is our **"reasonable service"**. In view of all that He has done for us, and in view of the fact that we already belong to Him (I Corinthians 6:19-20), it is only rightly reasonable and logical that we hand over to Him what is already His. What will follow such an act and attitude of dedication?

III. THE RESULT THAT IS PROMISED.

When we present our all to Him there will be a 3-fold result, and this is clearly indicated in verse 2:

- a. Separation from the world. The world is all that shuts out Christ. If we present ourselves to the Lord, we shall not want the world and its fashions, follies, pleasures and sins. (*II Corinthians 6:14-18 and Galatians 1:4*).
- b. Transformed into His likeness. The word ***"transformed"*** here is the same word as in Matthew 17:2 and Luke 9:29. How can I be like Him? Romans 12:1 is the answer.
- c. Rejoicing in the will of God. To ***"prove"*** means to find out for yourself, in actual experience. If we will present ourselves utterly to Him, we shall soon discover that His will for us is good, acceptable and perfect. We shall not simply be resigned to His will, but we shall glory in it, and want nothing but his will.