

Being Devoted to God

Introduction

1. **The “reasonable” or “spiritual” service of the Christian is that which expresses their true devotion and dedication to God.**
Romans 12:1-8
2. **In this context of scripture, the apostle Paul shows several marks of true devotion to our heavenly Father.**

Our Self Sacrifice (verse 1)

1. **We can see a clear contrast between the Christian and the Gentile’s abuse of their bodies.**

Romans 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- A. **The Gentiles do not show restraint, but the Christian glorifies God in their body.**
2. **In contrast with the Jewish animal sacrifices of old, the Christian lives a life that is **holy; acceptable** to God.**
 - A. **Knowing that this is God’s will for the Christian.**

3. We can see that this involves a complete surrender of SELF.

A. As the Macedonians:

2 Corinthians 8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

- 1) SELF is the altar upon which every acceptable sacrifice to God is made.**

Self Alteration (verse 2)

1. Let us look at this from two view points.

A. Negatively.

- 1) We are not to be fashioned according to the this world.**

1 John 2:15-17 **Do not love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

B. Positively.

- 2) We are to be “transformed.”**
 - 1) This is the spiritual metamorphosis that is essential to the newness of life.**
 - 2) The Christian is totally different than what he/she was from the world.**

Self Examination (verse 3)

1. **The proper evaluation of SELF is essential to spiritual growth.**
2 Corinthians 10:12-18
 - A. **Over evaluation of oneself is harmful. "Not to think of himself more highly."**
 - B. **Under evaluation is also harmful. "A good for nothing" concept; having no self esteem)**
2. **We are to examine ourselves by the right standard**
 - A. **The "measure of faith" (faith is used as a measuring instrument).**

James 1:23-25 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Self Involvement (verses 4-8)

1. **There is always something for everyone to do.**
 - A. **Every member of the body is to function in keeping with the talents and resources that one has.**
 - 1) **Put them to use!**
 - B. **This is to be our "spiritual service."**

Conclusion

- 1. Every Christian should not only show their devotion to God but also be seen by others as being devoted to God.**

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- 2. When one is truly devoted to God, then they will become grounded in the scriptures and will be a shining light for others to focus on!**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

