

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #16: Living Sacrifices

INTRODUCTION

In Luke 7:47, Jesus told a Pharisee that a person who is forgiven little loves little but a person who is forgiven much loves much. Why do you think this is so?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 12:1-21

*Note: Sacrifices of dead animals are no longer acceptable to God. Because the Lamb of God was sacrificed in their place, the redeemed of the Lord are now to offer themselves, all that they are and have, as **living** sacrifices. The only acceptable worship under the New Covenant is the offering of oneself to God.¹*

1. Many say that faith must express itself in obedience and deeds. **Jas 2:14**. Some Christians, however, respond to an awareness of God's mercy (vs. 1) with a sense of duty or guilt as a motivation. How would you explain that their "good works" are not pleasing to God? **Eph 2:8-10; Rom 6:13-14; 2 Cor 5:10**
2. Why is the imagery of the living sacrifices of worship pleasing to God? **1 Cor 6:20; 1 Pet 2:5**
3. How are we influenced and pressured into conforming to the world? **1 Jn 2:15-17; Eph 2:3**
4. If transformation is more of a process than an act or event, what are some ways we can renew our minds and thus be transformed? **1 Pet 1:14-17; Eph 4:22-27; Ps 119:11**
5. Sometimes we view God's (perfect) will as something to be avoided rather than desired? How can we correct this distortion? Vs. 2
6. How can Christians have the proper view of themselves... not too high or low? Vs. 3; **1 Pet 4:10**
7. How does God equip each Christian to be uniquely useful to Him? Vv 4-8
8. How would the kind of love described between vv. 9-16 transform our relationship to Christians?
9. How can we overcome our enemies? Vv 17-21 What about our safety? **Acts 7:59-60; 1 Cor 4:12**
10. Can the unredeemed (non-believer) man present a living (acceptable) sacrifice to God? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

What are some practical ways to be a living sacrifice? In your home, office and community?

The living sacrifice we are to offer to the Lord who died for us is the willingness to surrender to Him all our hopes, plans, and everything that is precious to us, all that is humanly important to us, all that we find fulfilling. When we offer the living sacrifice of ourselves, He does not destroy it, but refines and purifies it, not only for His glory, but for our present and eternal good. Our living sacrifice is to be holy. Ps 24:4

The story is told of a Chinese Christian who was moved with compassion when many of his countrymen were taken to work as coolies in South African mines. In order to be able to witness to his fellow Chinese, this prominent man sold himself to the mining company to work as a coolie for five years. He died there, still a slave, but not until he had won more than 200 men to Christ. He was a living sacrifice in the fullest sense.²

^{1,2} MacArthur, J. (1996). *Romans*. Chicago: Moody Press.