

January 12, 2025

Romans 12:1-8

Sacrifice and Service

The Jewish sacrificial system was very complex and elaborate.

The worshiper had to bring (or purchase) a lamb; but not any lamb would do, it had to be spotless (free from deformity, injury, or illness). The worshiper showed the lamb to the priest, who inspected it to make sure it was acceptable. Next the lamb was presented to the Lord, near the altar and facing the Holy of Holies. The worshiper then placed his hand on the lamb's head and confessed his sins.

The lamb was then killed and one of the priests caught some of its blood in a cup. The blood was sprinkled or thrown on the altar, while other priests cut the lamb into pieces. The pieces were then placed in precise positions on the altar. The lamb was completely consumed (either by the fire on the altar or as a meal for the priests). The worshiper left without his lamb, but he had done the things God expected of him.

How does this description of an animal sacrifice relate to us? Read Romans 12:1-8 to find out.

Rom. 12:1 "I _____ you therefore, _____, by the mercies of God, that ye present your _____ a living _____, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your _____ service."

Let's think about the significance of the words you wrote.

Beseech means to call someone to your side to urge them to do something.

Brethren – Was this written to saved or lost people? _____ This means you don't **get** saved by presenting yourself as a living sacrifice, but this is something those who **are** saved should do.

Bodies – Do you think it matters what you put in your body and how you use your body?

Sacrifice – A sacrifice must be spotless. Does that describe you? _____ The sacrifice is also completely dedicated and totally consumed in serving the Lord. Does that describe you? _____

Reasonable – Is God expecting too much of you?

Rom. 12:2 What should we **NOT** be conformed to?

How can we be transformed?

Putting it together: Verses 1 and 2 tell Christians we should be **holy, yielded** to God, and **different** from the world. Those things are God's will for His children.

Rom. 12:3 What did Paul warn us not to do?

Rom. 12:4 “For as we have many _____ in one _____, and all members have not the same _____” (function).

Your body is made up of many parts (arms, legs, torso, head, lungs, heart, toes). The different parts of your body carry out very different functions, which means they are not interchangeable.

Rom. 12:5 The word **we** refers to believers. What do the many individual believers make up?

How are we related and connected to one another?

If you lose one part of your body the rest of your body will suffer. You may have to adapt and change the way you do things to make up for the missing part. In the same way, when believers don't faithfully serve the Lord their local church suffers.

Rom. 12:6 Does everyone have the same gifts?

Every believer receives one or more spiritual gift at the time he or she is saved. These gifts provide both ability and desire to serve the Lord. Believers are part of the body of Christ and should use their spiritual gifts to serve the Lord together in the church. The point of verses 6-8 is that **we should use our gifts faithfully and diligently**. That's living out the Gospel. What gifts are named in those verses?

Verse 6: _____

Verse 7: _____, _____

Verse 8: _____, _____, _____, _____

Concluding Thoughts: The title of this lesson is “Sacrifice and Service.” If you have received new life in Christ, here are two very pointed questions you must answer:

1. Is your life a living **sacrifice**, holy, yielded to God, and transformed?
2. Are you **servng** the Lord, faithfully exercising your spiritual gift in your church?

If you are not giving your body to the Lord as a living sacrifice, then you are disobedient to Him, conformed to this wicked world, and a bad testimony of the saving and transforming power of Jesus Christ. Confess your sin and yield yourself to the Lord right now.

If you are not using your spiritual gift to serve the Lord in your church, then you are disobedient to God and hindering His work in His church. Your lack of service is causing other members of the body to suffer. Confess that sin and ask God (and your Sunday School teacher) how you can get to work in the church.

Project: Memorize **Romans 12:1-2**. Follow through on the commitments you have just made to the Lord.

NOTE: A simple and free spiritual gifts test is available at the following website: <http://gifts.churchgrowth.org>