

Serve

Romans 12:1-3

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Transition

- The last few weeks I have prayed for God to bless us with humility.
- The kind of humility that **HE** recognizes.
- The kind of humility that **glorifies God**.
- The kind of humility that allows people to see Jesus in me, in my family, in our pastors and leaders, and volunteers – In You.
- The king of humility that allows the world to see **Jesus** in our church.
- I can tell you that when you begin to pray for humility God will give you the chance to grow.
- Isn't that what we should expect.
- I hope you will pray for me to grow in humility.
- Know that is one of the things I am praying for you in this season.
- Pride destroys our relationship with God.
- Pride cuts us off from God.
- Pride is like slapping God in the face.
- Pride is like spitting in God's face.

Point of View

- I need to tell you where I am coming from today.
- Last week was one of the most powerful weeks of my life.
- Last week I went to sister church in N.C. and received.
- I sat in on three nights of powerful services.
- I sat with some of the most anointed ministers in the American body of Christ.
- The place had been saturated with prayer and over 1,000 people gathered every night to meet Jesus.
- And we did.

Application

- I'm in awe of Jesus Christ this morning.
- I'm in awe of his power.
- I'm in awe of his willingness to come down to frail people when they are hungry.
- Hungry is a good word for me this morning.
- Full is a good word for me this morning.

21 days of prayer and fasting ends today

- I am reminded that when you choose to abstain from food and drink it creates in you a hunger. A desire to be full.
- Then when your stomach shrinks and you eat some small portion feel full and don't want any more for a while.
- Spiritually speaking although I am full – in a ironic way I am hungry for more.
- With God the more you taste and see the more you want.
- With God the more you eat and are satisfied the more you desire of HIM.

This is about HIM.

About being satisfied with HIM.

About HIM being our food and drink.

I. God is merciful

Vs. 1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

A. In view of God's mercy.

1. The thought leads with a profound statement.
2. In talking about how a follower of Jesus should live – the conversation starts with **“in view of God's mercy”**
3. Why would the conversation start like that?
4. Why would the conversation start with “in view of God's mercy”
5. That seems kind of dramatic.
6. That seems kind of extreme.

B. God's mercy is needed because of God's wrath.

1. I deserve death.
2. I deserve wrath.
3. I deserve dreadful punishment.
4. The sins I have committed are so egregious and so outrageous and so despicable that it requires wrath.

5. A punishment that only death can satisfy.

C. God's wrath is required because of our sin.

1. It is a miracle that God doesn't snuff you out today.
2. It is a miracle that God didn't destroy me in my sleep last night.
3. It's only by his grace that we breath today.
4. He is in violent opposition to sin.

Sin is so wicked and evil and destructive and God hates it.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death

Psalm 5:4-5

⁴For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

⁵The arrogant cannot stand
in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

Psalm 11:4-6

⁴The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD is on his heavenly throne.

He observes everyone on earth;
his eyes examine them.

⁵The LORD examines the righteous,
but the wicked, those who love violence,
he hates with a passion.

⁶On the wicked he will rain
fiery coals and burning sulfur;
a scorching wind will be their lot.

5. Disappointing Jesus mortifies those who love Him.
6. You cannot be a lover of God and continue to practice sin.

D. Sin is repulsive.

1. It pollutes our communion with God.
2. It destroys our health and vitality.
3. No lasting good ever comes from it.

4. It is hideous and the ultimate expression of pride and arrogance before our holy God.
5. It doesn't matter what you call it, sin is still sin.
6. And God hates sin.
7. If God hates it, and we love God, our only choice is to hate sin as well.
8. No more dancing around the subject.
9. No more winking at evil because it is culturally acceptable.
10. Let us all tremble at the thought of sinning against a holy God.

Straw Man

- Well don't you think you are overreacting just a little.
- Don't you think that you are dramatizing the whole thing.

1 John 2:3-6

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Application

- I am humbled that God has mercy on me.
- I am amazed that God has not obliterated us.
- It's a wonder isn't it.
- Rejoice in the mercy of God.
- Throw down your pride sinners.
- What do we have to be arrogant of.
- In his mercy he has spared you.
- Be in AWE of HIM.
- Be in AWE that you were allowed to breath today.
- Be in AMAZED that you woke up.

In view of God's mercy offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

II. God's people are humble.

A. Humility is not optional in the KINGDOM.

Illustration

- How do you want that cooked?
 - What kind of dressing do you want with your salad?
 - Do you want carpet floor mats or all weather rubber mats for your car?
 - Do you want fries with that?
1. Humility is not for monks and nuns.
 2. Humility is not some kind of exclusive trait for the “super spiritual people” and the rest of us just become arrogant and full of ourselves.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

John 13:12-15

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

B. Unpack

1. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice
2. Holy and pleasing to God.
3. This is your true and proper worship.
4. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought...
5. With sober judgment...

C. All true servants are humble.

1. You cannot be a servant if you are not humble.
2. It is required.

Romans 12:1-3

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³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

- D. In Romans 12 the Apostle Paul teaches us that we must offer our bodies as a living sacrifice.
1. Living sacrifice = In the past God required all sacrifices to be dead.
 2. Now under the New Covenant = Jesus has made a way for us to die but live again.
 3. This death requires death to our **own agenda**, our **own way**, our **own desires**, our **own will**.

When we follow Christ we die to everything!

Following Christ compels us to die to everything!

4. If you are dead you cannot hold on to anything from your former life
 - **You let it go.**
5. If you are dead you cannot hold on to any of your time.
 - **You let it go.**
6. If you are dead you cannot hold on to any of your possessions
 - **You let them go.**
7. If you are dead you cannot hold on to any **desire to be liked, accepted, appreciated, recognized, thought highly of, praised, or included.**
8. **It is death to all these things.**

- E. In Romans 12 this kind of sacrifice is not only dead but alive at the same time.
1. A paradox of existence.
 2. An impossibility of reality.
 3. An unworldly view of reality.
 4. A Godly viewpoint of being
 5. Completely different from everything the Romans had heard of before.

Living sacrifice is a contradiction of terms, absurdity, a irrational phrase.

Question

- How can you be a sacrifice if you are alive?
- That is impossible.
- If you are a sacrifice you have to die.
- Now you are telling me you to be a Living Sacrifice.

- How can that even take place?
- How does that work?

F. To be a living sacrifice requires divine intervention.

1. This living sacrifice thing is absolutely impossible on your own.
2. You must have God's help.

G. Living Sacrifices are dead to themselves and Alive in Christ.

Illustration

- Pastor Tim Mills seat saver card on the front row at LAUNCH.

Application

- I am humbled that God has mercy on me.
- I am amazed that God has not obliterated us.
- It's a wonder isn't it.
- Rejoice in the mercy of God.
- Throw down your pride sinners.
- What do we have to be arrogant of.
- Take on the role of a servant.
- Lower yourself.
- Get in the back of the line.
- Grab a towel and pitcher and bowl and wash feet.
- Serve his people.

III. Submission is a choice.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.