



Show Me Your Ways Through Sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2)

Unfortunately, in our society today, the word, “sacrifice” has lost much of its true meaning. The dictionary defines the word sacrifice as “an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.” How many times have we caught ourselves saying that we really had to sacrifice in order to get or achieve something we really wanted?

In our passage today, Paul is speaking about how we as Christians should be a living sacrifice. Jesus dying on the cross for our sins was the ultimate sacrifice. Through Christ’s death and resurrection we experienced the power of grace. Our lives are to be transformed, shaped and ordered by the power of that grace. No longer are we to shape ourselves - our thinking and our doing - by what the world has to say. We are to literally live out our faith. Our every action, word, and thought should be in response to the transforming power of grace that came to us through Christ’s sacrifice.

What does that mean for us today as Christians? It is a great challenge to put aside the ways of the world, to not be tempted to allow ourselves to become content with where we are and with what we have. It is too easy to live in our little bubble and go through the motions of worship and being a Christian and not even realize that we are not giving our all to God, not even coming close to being a living sacrifice as we are called to do.

There is a popular contemporary Christian song by Matthew West called “The Motions.” In it he speaks of not wanting to simply go through the motions of living the Christian life. He desires to have the “all-consuming” passion of being a living sacrifice for God, of giving everything, all that is in him, to God and God’s work in this world. That is how we are called to live for God. To give our all to God, trusting in God’s will for our lives, living to honor and obey God in all that we are and in all that we do.

Discussion Questions and Reflection Activities

1. We have all had to make sacrifices at some point in our lives. Describe what that time was like for us. How does it compare with the kind of sacrifice Paul is calling us to in our text?
2. The question that Paul addresses in Romans 12:1-2 is how do we glorify God? How do we live our faith each day? Do you ever find yourself “going through the motions?” If so, how can you change your direction and give your all to God?
3. What are some of the roadblocks that you have come upon while trying to be a living sacrifice? What aspects of our society make it difficult to keep in this frame of mind? What aspects of society make it easy to remember to be a living sacrifice?

Using the word **SACRIFICE**, write an acrostic poem that helps define the word in the context of our lesson for today.

Prayer:

Close in prayer, asking for guidance to seek God's will in all we do, and to truly live our lives as a living sacrifice. Be thankful of the opportunities that God presents to us to be examples of God's grace in this world. Pray for your group and your church to be a shining example of what it means to live a life transformed by grace.