

Self-Sacrificial Service Romans 12:1

Introduction:

- Two kinds of selfishness:
 1. Ob_____ (Finding Nemo – “mine, mine, mine”)
 2. De_____ (looks unselfish, but the motive is selfish)
 - a. *I'll scratch your back, if you scratch mine.*
 - b. *Since I did a favor for you, you owe me a favor.*
- A_____ selfishness is destructive; it adversely affects relationships, health, finances, thinking, etc.
- Rom 12:1 gives the solution to the problem of selfishness that we as Christians may slip back into.

Are You A Living Sacrifice? (1a) - God does not need us, but He does w_____ us to:

- P_____ our physical bodies to Him
 1. Our s_____ are already connected to God
 - a. We were dead (spiritually) in our s_____ (Eph 2:5a)
 - b. God made us alive (spiritually) when we trusted Christ (Eph 2:5b) and j_____ our spirit with His (I Cor 6:17; Rom 8:11)
 2. Our b_____ are not connected to God
 - a. We do not need to present our spirit to God, because it is and always will be connected to Him.
 - b. We do need to present our body to Him. The Greek text reads this action as decisive and d_____.
 - c. Did you decide to dedicate your body to God, today?
- Present our bodies as a l_____ sacrifice
 1. How can a sacrifice be living?
 - a. Is not Jesus a living sacrifice – He sacrificed Himself for s_____ and rose from death.
 - b. We are to be d_____ in relationship to sin, but alive in relationship to God (Rom 6:11,13)
 2. I lay all on the altar of God, so that He can l_____ in me and through me (Gal 2:20)
- Present our bodies as a h_____ sacrifice
 1. Holy means “set apart, d_____”.
 - a. In Paul’s day, in both Jewish and pagan religions, sacrifices were a r_____.
 - b. We are to present our bodies not as a ritual but out of a relationship to the Lord. Only this is a_____.
 2. What is the difference between a living and a holy sacrifice? (see Jn 15:1)
 - a. A living sacrifice emphasizes Christ living _____ us.
 - b. A holy sacrifice emphasizes us living _____ Christ.

It Is A Logical Service! (1b)

- Translations vary on how to translate these two Greek words:
 1. NAS – spiritual service of worship

2. KJV – reasonable service
3. NIV – true and proper worship
- The Greek words are a noun and an adjective
 1. The Greek noun is *latreia* – the English equivalent is *latry*, which we see in words such as *idolatry*, *zoolatry*, *bibliolatry*, meaning “the w_____ of” (idols, animals, the bible).
 - a. This word is commonly used in the O.T. to describe the service of the p_____ in the temple (so the idea could be service, worship or both)
 - 1) They served only about _____ weeks out of the year, because there were thousands of them.
 - 2) The rest of the time they lived at home, farming.
 - b. What does the N.T. teach about believers?
 - 1) We all are p_____ (I Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6)
 - 2) Our bodies are God’s t_____ (I Cor 6:19)
 - 3) Therefore, we are to be serving God all the time.
 2. The Greek adjective is where we get our word *log*_____.
 - a. It was used by Greek philosophers in two ways:
 - 1) R_____ (philosophers were big on logic)
 - 2) As the opposite of literal (figurative)
 - b. 2 Pet 2:2 uses this word to say that Christians should crave milk, not literal, but figurative or spiritual milk.
 - c. So which did Paul mean in Rom 12:1 – spiritual service or reasonable service? (the c_____ always determines the meaning – see verse 2)

- God is the supreme example of unselfishness.
 1. Since Jesus gave His life for us, would it be reasonable for us to trust Him and sin?
 2. Since Jesus gave His life for us, it is reasonable for us to be totally d_____ to Him.
- Beware of mature selfishness
 1. Cain sacrificed to God, but it was not accepted because His m_____ were evil (I Jn 3:12)
 2. *You cannot outgive God!* – how many have used this truth to gain financially?
- Does this mean that we can never do anything that benefits us?
 1. Jesus r_____ because He was tired (Jn 4:6)
 2. Jesus n_____ because He need it (Matt 8:24)
 3. God has given us all things to e_____ (I Tim 6:17)
 4. Eating, resting, leisure is important in our service to God
 - a. How long will a servant of God last without eating?
 - b. How long will a servant of God last that never rests?
 - c. Cannot we not serve God in our eating, resting, and fun?

Conclusion:

- We live in a very selfish world. Are you adding to it?
 - 1) Selfishness will always result in p_____ (financial, personal, relational, physical, etc)
 - 2) 90% of our problems are s_____ - inflicted due to selfishness.
- Will you DAILY dedicate your physical bodies to the Lord, so

that Christ will live in you and through you?

- Will you RE-dedicate your physical bodies whenever you are having trouble with your mouth, hand, hormones, etc?

I urge you, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is your reasonable service.