

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Romans: A New Lifestyle

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Lesson 15: Living as Living Sacrifices Romans 12

Throughout the centuries Christian martyrs have given their lives because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Most of us will never be asked to make that kind of sacrifice, but we are called to offer a radical response to God's mercy, love and grace.

In the first eleven chapters Paul has described God's gift of righteousness. In Christ, we who were condemned are justified. We who were sinners are sanctified. And we who had no hope will be glorified. But what is our proper response to God's mercy, love and grace? Paul tells us in this and the following chapters.

Group Discussion: Jesus once told a Pharisee that a person who is forgiven little loves little but a person who is forgiven much loves much (Luke 7:47). Why do you think this is so?

Loves Little

- Self-Sufficiency– A person may be too – high on themselves
- Self-delusion – Not realizing how bad their sins really are. (The Lorax – How bad can I be?)
- Self Reliance – Thinking that they have resources to pay the debt (not that big a deal)

Loves Much

- Understands their guilt and shame of what they done
- Understands the appreciation of grace and mercy of being forgiven
- Understands the values of the relationship with the offended

Read Romans 12:1 – 8

1. What are some ways God's grace and mercy (v. 1) has been demonstrated in Romans 1—11? (See, for example, 3:24; 4:16; 5:2, 15-21; 6:1, 14-15; 9:15-23; 11:5-6, 30-32).

Romans 3:24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus .	Through God's Gift of Grace – He sees us as if we never sinned – Just like Jesus.
Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace , so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all	Not through any works we've done – but by faith and grace we are brought into family of God (Promises/Blessing of Abraham)

<p><u>Romans 5:2</u> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.</p> <p><u>Romans 5:15 – 21</u> 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many [b]offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one[e] Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.</p> <p>20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>By Faith and grace, we have a sure hope and joy of future glory (eternal life) in God</p> <p>Although all are guilty of sin from birth – God by His great grace mercy sent Jesus to the Cross to pay for all of our sin</p> <p>No matter what the sin God grace that cleanses and forgives is greater.</p>
<p><u>Romans 6:1</u> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?</p> <p><u>Romans 6:14-15</u> 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!</p>	<p>We are freed from the Power of Sin. And by grace we can go from Slaves of Sin to Slaves of God</p>

<p><u>Romans 9:15-23</u> 15 For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.” 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. 19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?</p> <p>22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,</p>	<p>God has chosen through merit of my own to be gracious and merciful to me</p>
<p><u>Romans 11:5-6</u> 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.</p> <p><u>Romans 11:30-32</u> 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.</p>	<p>God has by election and grace has chosen us despite of unworthiness and sinful guilt to be saved. Even the disobedience of Israel works toward our behalf,</p> <p>God mercy toward us is being used for the Lord have mercy toward others</p>

2. Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of living sacrifices to describe our proper response to God’s mercy? Why is this kind of worship pleasing to God?
 - Paul uses this imagery as a reference the OT sacrifices the Priest made to God. Each offering had to be of the best quality in appreciation of God’s mercy.
 - The term “Living” Sacrifices is in contrast the dead sacrifices in the OT – Living meaning continually on going.
 - Our bodies – we are the temple of the Holy Spirit – the very house of Spirit of God We have been created to worship Him.

- Holy and acceptable – Set apart for the glory of God – Worship is a lifestyle.
- This kind of worship pleases God – because He is holy and righteous – When we worship our goal is to please Him
- Worship is the acceptable, reasonable response to Character, Mercy and grace of God.
- John 4:24 – Worship must be in Spirit and in Truth.

3. J. B. Phillips paraphrases verse 2 as, “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.” How are we influenced and pressured to conform to the world? What are some ways we can renew our minds (v. 2) and so be transformed?

How we are pressured:

- Peer-Pressure - The pull to be accepted by those around us.
- Entertainment (movies, music, media, etc.) paints a false message of God’s Word/Will
- Oppression/Persecution – the world tries pressure and threaten Christians to conform
- Enticement - Tempting us to conform by offering Pleasures (sex, money, power, etc,

How Can we renew our Minds:

- Reading and Studying the Word – Daily
- Prayer regular devotions to the Lord
- Consistent and attendance and participation in Sunday Worship
- Commitment to Serving in Ministry

In 1816, Mary Shelley wrote the novel, Frankenstein, the story of an ambitious young scientist who creates a man in his laboratory. His creation is monstrous and turns into a savage killer. In the movie version – Fritz, DR. Frankenstein’s assistant, stole an abnormal brain instead of the normal brain to put in the Monster. Once we are born again of the Spirit of God – when need to continue to grow by allowing the Word to transform our “abnormal” Thinking

4. Sometimes we view God’s will as something to be avoided rather than desired. How can the last part of verse 2 correct this distortion?

- **Good Will** – No matter how difficult it may seem, God’s will be His glory and ultimately for our good.
- **Acceptable Will** – What God deems for us in the beauty of Holiness in worship is always acceptable to Him
- **Perfect Will** – God is perfect – so His will for you is perfect. My wife is not perfect – but in accordance with God’s will she is perfect for me).

Only by being renewed spiritually can a believer ascertain, do, and enjoy the will of God.

5. As you think “with sober judgment” about yourself, what gift (or gifts) do you think God has given you (vv. 3-8)? How can you use it (them) to benefit the body of Christ?

Sober Judgment - An inflated view of oneself is out of place in the Christian life. Paul encourages us to think (in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you to serve Him.

- Each of us should know which Spiritual Gift(s) we have (Rom 12:6 – 8, Eph.4:4 - 16, 1 Cor.12:12 – 28).
- Spiritual Gifts are specifically used to build up the local Church and equip others for ministry
- Find a need where you are passionate and gifted to fill and get busy serving.

Romans 12:9 - 21

How would the kind of love Paul describes in verses 9-16 transform our relationships with other Christians?

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.	Where the Love of Christ Solid as a Rock
Love each other with genuine affection,* and take delight in honoring each other.	No Cliques – no one would be looking for glory but how to lift another up
¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*	No “unemployment” full participation and a full house in Worship
¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.	Everyone in good mood – not grouchy despite what's going on
When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality	A generous and giving church – where people are glad serve others
¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.	Coming alongside in fellowship (You are not the only fellow in the ship)
Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!	We will be a family and people will see us as the “Jesus Bunch!”

* Greek with brotherly love.

* Or but serve the Lord with a zealous spirit; or but let the Spirit excite you as you serve the Lord.

6. How can Paul's advice in verses 17-21 help us to overcome our enemies?

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone	It would help people to see that we are not all hypocrites. Everything problem doesn't have to be a "social justice" issue.
Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God	It helps us to live a lot less stressful – understanding that God will vindicate us when we are wronged
If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.	Our good toward our enemies will confuse them and cause the evil they committed to feel like it come back on them.

7. In what ways do you need to begin living more sacrificially before God, other Christians or the world?

Sacrificially before God

- Time – Spend for time in prayer, study of His Word, Worship
- Talent – Use my resources to get better at Ministry (school, seminars, etc.)
- Treasure – Become a more faithful give

Other Christians

- Prayer for those in my church/family/world
- Be more sensitive to needs around me
- Be more of an encourager and less of a complainer

The World

- Prayer for my enemies and frenemies alike
- Prayer for the lost that they would come to know the Lord
- Stepping out to support to people in need (Home and Foreign Missions)

Ask God to give you grace to be a living sacrifice for Jesus Christ.

Keys for Living



Our motivation for living a life that pleases God is understanding and appreciating His great love and mercy toward us.



We need a daily renewing of our minds by the Word and the Spirit of God in order to successfully combat the mindset of this ungodly world.



A church full of people living as living sacrifices will make a real difference – both within and outside the church.