

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer 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. Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Living Sacrifice

Do you want to know my good, perfect and pleasing will? Do you want to live your life in ways that please me? Yes, I want to know and do your will. I want to think your thoughts and walk in your ways. In every way I want to do what pleases you. **Thinking my thoughts will make you able to walk in my ways.** How can I think your thoughts? **That is a very good question.** Why is that? **There is a battle going on over your heart and mind. You may be unaware of it, but it rages on nevertheless.** I'm not exactly sure what you are talking about. **Then, its time for you to know exactly what I am talking about. The world is bombarding your heart and mind with its values, patterns and practices. Up until now you have been allowing your heart and mind to conform to all that the world has to offer. You have been living according to the values, patterns and practices of this world. That is not good.** Why is that? **You tell me.** The world's values, patterns and practices stand in opposition to your will and your ways. **That's right. You cannot live in ways that please me if you allow yourself to continue to be conformed to the world. You cannot present yourself to me as a living sacrifice unless you allow me to change your heart and transform your mind.**

I want you to change my heart and transform my mind. How will you do that? **I will change your heart and transform your mind as you do two things. First, you must give yourself fully to me. You must desire to leave the things of this world. You must not allow yourself to be conformed to the values, patterns and practices of the world. This will mean that you will need to take an inventory of your life. You will need to closely examine worldly influences over your life. You will need to separate yourself from these worldly influences.** That sounds like it will be very difficult. **It won't be easy at first. If this were all you tried to do, it would be impossible. Your efforts would end in failure.** What else do I need to do? **You will need to meet with me in my word. My word will strengthen you. My word will change your heart. My word will transform your mind. As you meet with me in my word, it will become your desire to leave the things of the world. You will want to know my thoughts and walk in my ways. You will have great joy in presenting yourself to me as a living sacrifice. That's exactly what I want. Yes, I know.**

Lord, no longer do I want to live according to the patterns of this world. Instead I want to present myself to you as a living sacrifice so I can live in ways that please you. Use your word to transform my heart and mind so I will be able to know and do your will. Amen

Therefore *Offer Your Bodies*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer 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.

NIV Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Give Your Bodies*

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

NLT Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Present Your Bodies*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

NRSV Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Decisive Dedication Of Your Bodies*

I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

AMP Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Present Your Bodies*

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

NASB Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Present Your Bodies*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ESV Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Present Your Bodies*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

NKJV Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Your... Life –And Place It Before God*

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

MSG Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Give Your Bodies*

And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.

TLB Romans 12:1-2

Therefore *Offer Your Lives*

So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. Do not change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.

NCV Romans 12:1-2

Offer Your Bodies

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Therefore – Romans 12:1-2

In Context: *Read Romans 12*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer 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. Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Therefore, | I urge you, | brothers, | in view of | God's mercy, | to offer | your bodies | as | living sacrifices, | holy | and | pleasing to God |--this is | your | spiritual act | of worship. | Do not | conform | any longer | 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. Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, no longer do I want to live according to the patterns of this world. Instead I want to present myself to you as a living sacrifice so I can live in ways that please you. Use your word to transform my heart and mind so I will be able to know and do your will. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How is the world continually trying to conform you to its values, patterns and practices?

What powerfully negative world conforming influences can you eliminate from your life?

How has God been using His word to transform your mind from worldly to spiritual?

How has meditating on God's word been transforming your mind so you can think His thoughts?

How has thinking God's thoughts led you to want to live as a living sacrifice that does what pleases Him?

What has changed about the way you live your life since you started becoming a living sacrifice for God?

How has God's word transformed your mind so you can know and agree with His good, pleasing and perfect will?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Give yourself fully to God as a living sacrifice so that you will be able to live in ways that please Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God will help you to give yourself fully to Him so that you can live in ways that please Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are continually giving yourself to God so you will please Him.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you offer your body to God as a living sacrifice so you will live in ways that please Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will offer my body to you as a living sacrifice so I will live in ways that please you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I offer my body to you as a living sacrifice so I will live in ways that please you today?
