

TODAY'S MESSAGE

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Our Theme for 2023 *"PREPARE TO SERVE"*

Romans 12:1-2-KJV

12. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

EXPANDED BIBLE TRANSLATION

12 ·So [Therefore] brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I ·beg [urge; appeal to] you to offer your ·lives [selves; ¹bodies] as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be ·only for God [holy] and pleasing to him, which is the ·spiritual [or authentic; true; or appropriate; fitting; or rational; reasonable] way for you to worship. ²Do not be ·shaped by [conformed to; pressed into a mold by] this ·world [age]; instead be ·changed within [transformed] by ·a new way of thinking [or changing the way you think; ¹the renewing of your mind]. Then you will be able to ·decide [discern; test and approve] what ·God wants for you [is God's will]; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.

Present Your Bodies a living=2198=zao=to be warm, to have life, be alive, natural and spiritual-AMP-Rom. 6:12-14-*"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts and passions. ¹³Do not go on offering members of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness. But offer yourselves to God [in a decisive act] as those alive [raised] from the dead [to a new life], and your members [all of your abilities—sanctified, set apart] as instruments of righteousness [yielded] to God. ¹⁴For sin will no longer be a master over you, since you are not under Law [as slaves], but under [unmerited] grace [as recipients of God's favor and mercy]"*. AMP-1 Corinthians 6:20-*"You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honor and glorify God with your body."* AMP-1 Cor. 7:23-*"You were bought with a price [a precious price paid by Christ]; do not become slaves to men [but to Christ]."* "A LIFE STYLE"

1. "Give Service/Serve As Unto God"

1st Our Service is to each other, the church, family and to our neighbors

-John 13:34-KJV- A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you,

-Gal.5:13-For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. ¹⁴For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

-Eph. 4:32-Be Kind and Tender Hearted: Have the Spirit of Compassion, Understanding and Patience

2. "Our Level of Service"

-*The greater one among us is the Servant to all*-Matt. 23:11-But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. Luke 22:27-For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

-*Don't wait to be Served*-Matt. 20:28-Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

-*Recognize your Intent-Motive*-Gal. 5:13-For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. ¹⁴For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

-*So others may Benefit*-Titus 3:8-This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

The 12th Chapter of Romans gives us the model to use when serving, ministering, sacrificing, supporting and pleasing God through our giving Service beyond ourself.

Romans 12:1-13-Amplified Bible

“*Prepare to Serve*”

12 ^[a]Therefore I urge you, ^[b]brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, *which is* your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

² And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be ^[c]transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

³ For by the grace [of God] given to me I say to everyone of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose designed for service].

⁴ For just as in one [physical] body we have many parts, and these parts do not all have the same function *or* special use,

⁵ so we, who are many, are [nevertheless just] one body in Christ, and individually [we are] parts one of another [mutually dependent on each other].

⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them accordingly*: if [someone has the gift of] prophecy, [let him speak a new message from God to His people] in proportion to the faith *possessed*;

⁷ if service, in the act of serving; or he who teaches, in the act of teaching;

⁸ or he who encourages, in the act of encouragement; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, ^[d]with diligence; he who shows mercy [in caring for others], with cheerfulness.

⁹ Love is to be sincere *and* active [the real thing—without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor;

¹¹ never lagging behind in diligence; aglow in the Spirit, *enthusiastically* serving the Lord;

¹² *constantly* rejoicing in hope [because of our confidence in Christ], steadfast *and* patient in distress, devoted to prayer [continually seeking wisdom, guidance, and strength],

¹³ contributing to the needs of God’s people, pursuing [the practice of] hospitality.