

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. ² Do 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. ¹³ Do 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. ¹⁴ For 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. ¹⁴ For 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. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Matt. 24:40-Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

-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.

Minimal=Slightest, least, littlest, nominal, a token, next to nothing, little to no efforts or least effective-Prov. 3:27-28
Maximize=to make the most of, make as large or great as possible, for the greater good, not limited to-Matt. 25:40

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.

