

Living a Dedicated Christian Life

Romans 12:1

Dedicated:

“wholly committed to something... set apart or reserved for a specific use or purpose.”

Paul's central appeal in these two verses is that we would avoid being conformed to the world by living our Christian lives entirely devoted to God.

True spiritual worship is presenting yourselves on the altar of God's mercies as a living and holy sacrifice to God.

The alternative is foolishly allowing yourself to be conformed to the thinking, priorities, values, and pursuits of this world. Paul told the Corinthians,

*“I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of **devotion to Christ.**”* (2 Cor. 11:3)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt. 6:19-21

I. Where your devotion to God begins

- Paul tells us to **present** ourselves to God on this altar of His love and grace to us in Christ. Specifically, he tells you to **present your bodies** to God. *Present* is a command.
- We present ourselves to Him because He gave Himself for us. Your devotion to God is a **grateful response** of your heart to God's mercy towards you.

II. What it means to dedicate or to devote your body to God

- **Living Sacrifice**

- This is because **God provided** a way for Issac to be a sacrifice set apart for God's special use and yet **to go on living**. God provided a substitute for Issac; the substitute died in place of Isaac, and Isaac was spared **to serve** God as a **living** sacrifice.

II. What it means to dedicate or to devote your body to God

- Holy Sacrifice

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- **Acceptable Sacrifice**

- Paul speaks of our *“inner man”* or our redeemed spiritual selves, our made-alive-to-God selves: *“For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man.”* (Rom. 7:22)
- And he prays that the Ephesians *“will be strengthened with power through God’s Spirit in the inner man...”* (Eph. 3:16)

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It is our inner man, our spiritual selves, our hearts that we want people to relate to and interact with. **How?**

- Through our redeemed inner man which expresses our heavenly thoughts, desires, and choices **by means of** our physical bodies.
- By the look and manner of our bodies, our lifestyles, and our actions which all display the heart attitudes of our inner man.

II. What it means to dedicate or to devote your body to God

- **Our bodies are instruments for the flow of God's mercy to others.**
- "... an intelligent commitment of life in the light of God's gift of salvation..." (*Everett Harrison*)

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