

# The Foundation of Growth in Christ

Session One:

# **Living a Dedicated Christian Life**

*Romans 12:1-2*

What does it mean for you to be dedicated to Jesus?

What does it look like for you to live a dedicated Christian life?

The most revealing aspect of your godly devotion is your personal holiness — your commitment to personal purity and to pursuing Christlikeness.

Am I like Jesus when no one is looking?

Is becoming more like Jesus in all that I think, say, and do a growing commitment that defines my life and character?

Becoming more like Jesus changes your view of your own sin.

Does my sin break ***my*** heart because I know it breaks **God's** heart?

That brings us to the issue of your heart because your heart's desires determine your actions.

So, what are your reasons for being committed and devoted to certain things in your life?

Are you willing to allow the Lord to show you if the dedication of your heart is misplaced or misapplied in some areas of your life?

## Romans 12:1-2

Paul's central appeal: Make dedicating ourselves to God our most faithful pursuit in life.

We can do this by God's grace as we:

1. Prevent our hearts from being conformed to the world and, instead,...
2. Pursue Jesus through spiritually transformed hearts.

## Romans 12:9-21

A living, walking sacrifice looks like a person who is:

- becoming more like Jesus
- entirely devoted to worshiping God in every detail of life.

A heart devoted to God strives to live in worship to God in all things and in all ways.

Are you striving to be more like Jesus because you are making your life about Jesus? A life truly devoted to God doesn't just happen.



## Romans 12:9-21

This is an urgent appeal from Paul to his readers to pursue Christ.

*“I urge you...”* = urgent.

This is an urgent encouragement, a soulful, passionate, and very serious appeal to holy living for the sake of Christ.

## Romans 12:9-21

- Spiritual growth
- Devotion to Jesus
- Personal holiness
- Sanctification



What it means for you to become more like Christ in all that you think, say, and do.

Where does this growth in Christlikeness begin?

Where your devotion to God begins:

“*Therefore...*” = consequently; because these things are so

“*mercies*” = great mercy, great compassion

Paul sums up what he has told them for 11 chapters concerning their salvation in Christ by calling it all the “*mercies of God.*”

## Romans 1:1 – 3:20

We sin because we are sinners at heart; we are all guilty criminals who have broken God's law of life with Him and with others.

## Romans 3:21 – 11:36

Paul tells of mankind's way of deliverance and rescue from the sin condition which enslaves and condemns us to death.

The way of our freedom from sin comes to us because our sin debt to God is paid in full for us.

Our death penalty has been served for us by a substitute standing in our place. this Person is the Son of God, who reversed the way of death produced by Adam's sin.

Jesus Christ opened the way of life for us through faith in Him. Through the perfect life, sacrificial death, and resurrection of Jesus, we can be declared right with God, brought near to God, forgiven for our sins, and set apart to God as His child.

## Romans 3:21 – 11:36

By God's mercy to us in His Son, we live in the truth that there is now no condemnation, no blame, no judgment by God for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We are gifted by God's mercy with the privilege and ability to be loved by God, to be devoted to Him, and — in His love — to be devoted to one another.

## Romans 12:1 – 16:27

Paul characterizes the Christian life as a grateful response to God, lived for His glory and honor; *“for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”* (Rom. 14:8)

Your spiritual growth in Christ is about giving, surrendering, or yielding yourself to Jesus because He gave Himself for you.

Your devotion to God is a grateful response of your heart (devotion) to God’s greatest act of mercy toward you: He gave His Son for you.

Your efforts at spiritual growth reflect your heart’s thankfulness, submission, and humility to God for His gift.

Responding from thankful hearts to God's mercies in Christ to us is the golden key to our heart's devotion to God.



‘I urgently encourage you,  
my brothers and sisters in Christ,  
based on the great mercy of God shown to you in His Son, Jesus,  
that you make your life about worshiping Christ Jesus your Lord in everything.  
Do not be conformed by the world to live by its false and deceitful wisdom,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind in the true wisdom of God,  
so that people will see in your worshipful life the proof of the good, acceptable, and  
perfect will of God for being human.’

*Romans 12: 1-2, Jeff's paraphrase*

What is the most important, life-defining truth about you that every person in your life needs to see and know?

*“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”*  
(Gal. 2:20)

