

## What Would It Really Be Like?

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### Romans 12:1-2

- 1 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.

What would it really be like if I finally got tired enough of doing things my way, making the same kinds of bad choices over and over again and living mainly just for myself; to really just give myself to God and let Him run it all?

What's it going to cost me?

I don't know if I can walk around acting all pious all the time...

I don't know if I can offer up that second cheek to slap and always go that extra mile...

And about that submission thing; I like being in control!

Let me ask you this; since you have been the one in control and you have been the one running your life; how's that working for you?

Yeah, that's what I thought. Most of the time it's like that Church in Revelation that put on a big front like everything was great but in reality Jesus said they were **wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**

Here in Romans; from the beginning of Chapter 12, where the Apostle challenges us to literally present ourselves completely to the Lord, to the end of Chapter 13; he tells us exactly how it is done.

Preachers are always saying, "Come; give your life to Jesus." I hope you realize that is something only saved people have the strength to do; and the strength for that comes only from Christ in you.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Before we get into how it's done; let me challenge you by pointing out that those Christians who do not turn their lives over to the Lord are where they are because of fear.

What are you afraid of? You see, it is just backward from what it appears. The truly brave are the meek and humble and faithful servants of the Lord.

The ones who by words or actions say, "I'm running my own life. I make the decisions for me; you are the real big chicken, scaredy, fraidy cats!"

If you are saved, I know that in your spirit your genuine heart's desire is to do exactly what these scriptures challenge us to do.

So here is the "how to do it" to go along with that desire the Lord has already put in your heart:

Step one:

## **I. See yourself as you are.**

*A. This requires some balance:*

1. **Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

2. Notice the scripture does not say, "don't think highly of yourself"; it says "don't think more highly of yourself that you ought."

*B. There are two sides to a proper view of ourselves; we will illustrate it this way:*

1. On the left side of the page we have our value in and of our selves.

a. **Romans 3:10-18**

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat *is* an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:

14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

b. In and of ourselves we are unrighteous, unworthy, corrupted, vile sinners who are fit for nothing but to be cast into hell and forgotten about forever!

c. So much for your self esteem.

2. In the center column of the page we are now going to add what Jesus did when we trusted Him to save us!

a. **2Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

b. God Himself in the form of a man has by the cross; taken on my

unrighteousness, paid for it in full and given me His own perfect righteousness in its place!

3. Now on the right side of the page we have our value in Christ; now we have a problem; there is not enough paper in the world to write down all this is worth!

a. We are redeemed, born again, justified, declared righteous and saved to the uttermost!

b. We are heirs to the Kingdom that fades not away; we are joint heirs with Christ, we are elect, we are chosen; we are blessed forever, Amen!

4. Considering what we were, compared now to what we are and to whom we owe it all; who then should we be living for?

*C. What is the measure by which men should be highly thought of?*

1. **1Thessalonians 5:12-13**

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.

2. The Lord wants every Christian to live a life that deserves to be highly thought of;

because...in order to give glory to the Lord,  
there needs to be some glory to give!

3. You don't have to be a pastor or a preacher to do it; the measure for this is faith: **but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

4. Those who step out in faith and do those things God calls them to do; they who put Jesus and the work of the Lord first above all else; they are those who will have crowns to lay at Jesus' feet someday and they are those who cause others to consider Him now!

Step two:

## **II. Place yourself where you belong.**

*A. Every believer is designed by the Lord to be an integral part of a real Church which is the Body of Christ.*

### **1. Romans 12:4-5**

**4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

**5** So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

**2. 1Corinthians 12:12** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

*B. Becoming a committed faithful member of your Church is your first actual tangible step in presenting yourself to Christ as a living sacrifice.*

1. One of the highest priorities of any real Church is that we teach sinners how to be saved.
2. When those sinners trust Jesus and become saved, we are commanded to baptize them.

**Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

3. The Lord's first command to every new believer is to be baptized:
4. **Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.
5. **Acts 10:48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...
6. Your baptism adds you as a member to your Church:
7. **Acts 2:47** ... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
8. If you are saved, you belong in the membership of a real Church!

Step three:

### III. Apply your abilities where they count.

#### Romans 12:6-8

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

*A. Everybody wants to know about spiritual gifts.*

1. Let me teach you some little-known facts about Biblical spiritual gifts:
2. About two years before this letter to the Romans was written, the Apostle Paul wrote a similar letter to the Church at Corinth.
3. Both letters addressed major problems occurring in these Churches: In Romans, issues of bigotry; In I Corinthians primarily the misuse of spiritual gifts.
4. Paul told the Corinthians who were using their spiritual gifts to make themselves seem important; that spiritual gifts were for the



express purpose of the building up of the Church, not the individual:

**1Corinthians 14:12** Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

5. Furthermore the Apostle stated that the miraculous gifts that made the individual look big and important; like the gift to heal, the gift of knowledge, the ability to perform miracles, to speak in other languages they had not learned and the like; would cease.

**1Corinthians 13:8** ... *whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

6. Chapters 12 of both books list the spiritual gifts of each Church; two years after the Apostle declared that tongues would cease; in the Church at Rome, all those miraculous gifts are now missing from the list and other new and better ones are added.

7. New gifts that build up the Church are now added; gifts like giving and hospitality and leadership and mercy and love which do indeed build up the Body.

8. If you really want to know when the gift of tongues ceased, just pay attention as you study your Bible and you will figure it out.

*B. This brings up an important question: Why would God reveal or even give you a spiritual gift if you are not a member in the Body where they are meant to be used?*

1. Every letter to every Church lays out our purpose and priorities the same way:

**2. Ephesians 2:19-22**

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

**3. Ephesians 4:11-12**

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

**4. Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church**

by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Step four: Once you see yourself clearly, you get yourself in Church where you belong, you

start using your abilities where they count; then you can:

#### **IV. Replace the garbage with Godliness.**

*A. In and of ourselves; that is in our flesh, we are indeed evil as we already have seen.*

1. Even the great Apostle Paul knew and understood that except for his born again spirit, he, like every sinner, was evil through and through.

#### **Romans 7:18-19**

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

2. It was he who taught us to follow the desires of our spirit which is alive from the dead and thus we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

#### **Galatians 5:16-17**

16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

3. The only way there is to defeat the evil that is within us is to replace it with righteous activity.

4. **Romans 12:21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

5. **Romans 12:9** Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

6. **Proverb 16:3** Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

*B. The only way to defeat the evil in ourselves is to place ourselves in an environment of continuous righteous activity.*

1. We get started in Church; that is where we get encouraged and cheered on for righteous activity, instead of being slammed and ridiculed for it.

### **Romans 12:10-16**

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

16 *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

2. Once you begin to get strong then take it from here on out in to the world:

### **Romans 12:17-20**

17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil.*

*Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

20 *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

3. You really can do that “other cheek” thing and that “second mile” thing.

4. One way we demonstrate the perfect will of God is by being subject to human authority:

### **Romans 13:3-7**

3 *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil...*

5 *Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

6 *For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.*

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

4. You may not like hearing this, but verse 7 means that Christians are to pay their taxes; they are to respect God-ordained authority and they are to tithe; just not in that order.

### **In Conclusion:**

#### **Romans 13:8-14**

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfill* the lusts *thereof*.

**Most of you that truly know Jesus; you know you are saved, are still trying to hold on to some of the pieces of your old life and your old ways.**

**Are you glad you trusted Jesus to save you?**

**Are you glad you have a great new life in Christ?**

**Are you glad you have a great Church home to love you and encourage you and pray for you?**

**Doesn't it stand to reason that you will be just as glad if you just let go and let Jesus have it all?**

**You know what it is you are holding on to; that thing the Lord is always speaking to you about; why not today just let Jesus have it all; let Him have His way in that too?**