

Peace with God

Opening: Men can fix anything – If Women ruled the world

Text: **Romans 12**

Last week Pastor Jerry spoke from **Romans 12: 1-2** everyday lives become a *Living Sacrifice*
King James uses the term “*reasonable service*”

Paul the Apostle was concerned that the church at Rome might miss the meaning of *living sacrifice*, by focusing on the wrong subject – themselves instead of God ... over time religious effort always seems to creep back in trying to replace faith

We somehow forget that that it's by faith not by works that we are justified with God!

Verse 3 (The Message)

³ I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him. (Message)

The idea of being a *living sacrifice* isn't the idea that we have graduated to Master Christian and now we offer our holy living as a sacrifice to God to please him –

It's not surprising because it's the way everything else works down here between people –

We have to earn it here in life with other people – we earn respect in our job in our relationships as husband or wife or father or mother –and so we think it is the same way with God – but it isn't

⇒ The sacrifice was already made - the price already paid – you can't earn it you must receive it by faith.

Sacrifice – is the act of giving something of value for the sake of something that is of even greater value or importance

God gave his son as a sacrifice to be crucified ... for something of even or greater value **YOU**
You are the pearl of great price that Jesus taught about in the parable

This is the true meaning of John **3:16!**

- Read - **Verses 6 – 8 NLT)**

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving

others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Gifts –are given by God to individuals – to operate within the body of Christ

The difference between gifts and talents is mostly attitude –

Whether you have a gift or talent it all comes from God but how you use them makes the difference -

Are you using your talents for personal gain and self gratification or as service to others

Listed Gifts:

- Prophecy not always futuristic – a person who speaks God’s word listening and speaking by faith that God also provides
- Serving or helping others - serve well – from the heart
- Encourager – helping to lift the spirit of others
- Giver – of money or time - do it generously
- Leadership – management - planning – visionary
- Showing kindness – giving aid to those in need with gladness

Paul started this chapter with a warning ...don’t get to puffed up with yourself ... don’t think more of yourself than you should – when God works in your life and good things happen it’s easy to forget where the ability is coming from!

Read **verses 9 – 13** (NLT)

⁹ Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Joke Minister – rabbi – priest during a regular meeting – the three men start to open up bare their souls to one another– getting stuff off their chest that they would not feel comfortable telling anyone else

Rabbi – klepto maniac – always shop lifting

Priest - terrible mouth four letter words both turn to look at the minister who hasn’t said a word

Minister – I’m a terrible gossip and I can’t wait to get out of here!

⇒ How do I know which gift I have? The old expression is you never know what you can do until you try.

Gifts are given by God and they work differently in each individual – they may overlap

Different gifts operate in different ways in each individual because God made each of us unique

Some have a special sensitivity to the problems of others you notice even if that person doesn't say anything but you move to comfort them

This is *kindness* but it might include *words of wisdom* and *good counseling* ... several gifts, working in you by God's Spirit

"Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear." - Mark Twain

There are Infinite varieties – that may include words, music or other specific skills

When step up to *help* and in the process you discover that you can have *insight and leadership* to offer

⇒ Today just in this body of believers there are people who need ministry – they need the gifts that God has given you to be put to work on their behalf

There are people who:

- have just gotten bad news, who are having to endure a waiting period for test results
- who have been crushed by words by someone who was supposed to care about them
- Some who are been beaten down this week and wondering if God still cares at all about them

God has entrusted you – equipped you with gifts – abilities – some of which you still haven't discovered you possess

This is *your reasonable service* – this is how you can put a smile on your heavenly Father's face

God prompts us by His Spirit – when we listen ministry happens by God to others through you!

This is true wealth – true meaning in life – finding yourself doing the will of God (Jeremiah 29:11)

Romans 12: 9-21 (NLT)

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ **Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.**

Story of a neighbor

Psalms 34: 14 David tells us to "Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace and seek to maintain it." (NLT)

Peace isn't natural it doesn't come knocking at your door for an invitation

It's not like Cinderella and Prince Charming ... they lived happily ever after ... that's why they call them fairy tales!

We all want to live in peace – but to have peace with others we need peace with God

“Embracing what God does for you is the greatest thing you can do for him”

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

“I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,”
says the LORD.

²⁰ Instead, ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads.”

²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Some once said - “Forget yourself for others and others will not forget you.”