



**“A Church’s Change of Heart:
Striving for Spiritual Revolution”**
Romans 12:1

Introduction:

Regarding Spiritual Revolution

- REFORMATION = widespread spiritual revolution across the globe.
- REVIVAL = a spiritual revolution within a nation.
- REPENTANCE = spiritual revolution within an individual.

Our Goal = Global Reformation • National Revival • Personal Repentance

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

I. His Urgent Appeal For Our Attention

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren...” — “Listen up, you people of God...”

II. His Reminder of God’s Mercy

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God...” (cf. Romans 9–11)

Grace is when we get the good things we don’t deserve, and mercy is when we are spared from the bad things we do deserve. God is generous with both.

III. His Appeal for Sincere Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God...”

Revolutions require sacrifice. They are not for half-hearted people!

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies...” (cf. Luke 2:22 re: Jesus being “presented” to the Lord.)

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies (Greek: *soma* = our whole being) ...” (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:5)

True revolution starts in a surrendered heart!

Revolutionary Resolution #1: “I resolve to present myself to God as a living sacrifice.”

We have been given eternal life (John 3:16), and Christ wants us to experience abundant life (John 10:10). People who are living sacrifices do.

Revolutionary Resolution #2: “I resolve to present myself to God as a holy sacrifice.”

“holy” = “set apart as special”

2 Corinthians 4:7 – “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”

2 Timothy 2:19–21 – “Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, ‘Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.’ Now, in a large house, there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to

honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”

1 Corinthians 6:20 – “...you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

Revolutionary Resolution #3: “I resolve to present myself to God as an acceptable sacrifice.”

Romans 12:1 – “...present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God...”

acceptable = Greek: *euarestos* = acceptable, well-pleasing

The Heavenly Father said of Jesus, His Son “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matthew 3:17). We who have Christ living inside of us are also called the “beloved of God.” Therefore the things we do for God we do not to gain His pleasure but because we are already pleasing to Him, as His beloved children.

This is our motivation for obedience... (cf. Colossians 3:20; Philippians 4:18)

IV. His Ultimate Goal for Our Lives

Romans 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship (Greek: *logiken latreian* = reasonable, logical worship and service)”

You cannot truly worship a God you will not serve, and you cannot truly serve a God you will not worship. The service side of worship is the same as the worship side of service.

- To Know Him is to Love Him
 - To Love Him is to Obey Him
 - To Obey Him is to Serve Him
 - To Serve Him is to Worship Him

Concluding Challenge:

“The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire.”

It’s time for revolution in our hearts!

A Christ-Following Church’s Revolutionary Resolutions

Holy Spirit, as Disciples of Jesus Christ, we present ourselves to You as living sacrifices. Lord Jesus, as Sanctified Believers, we present ourselves to You as holy sacrifices. Heavenly Father, as Your Beloved Children, we present ourselves to You as acceptable sacrifices. Triune God, as a part of our Church Family, we will give of our time, our talents, and our treasures to be used for Your honor and glory. We dedicate ourselves to a renewed focus on worship and service as we participate with other Christians in the ministry of global reformation in the world, national revival in our nation, and personal repentance in people’s lives. We pray this in the strong and mighty name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the Head of His Church and the One who deserves to have first place in our lives, individually and corporately. Amen.

Discussion Questions and Action Items

1. Where does true spiritual revolution start? Describe your own revival experience.
2. Discuss the definitions and personal impacts of the following three revolutionary resolutions:
 - Revolutionary Resolution #1: “I resolve to present myself to God as a living sacrifice.”
 - Revolutionary Resolution #2: “I resolve to present myself to God as a holy sacrifice.”
 - Revolutionary Resolution #3: “I resolve to present myself to God as an acceptable sacrifice.”
3. Recite as a group the following: A Christ-Following Church’s Revolutionary Resolutions