

The Way

Maturity of the Church

Lesson 27: Believers Should Present their Bodies to the Lord for His Service

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

We learned in Romans 1-3 that without God's intervention, all mankind remains far from God and destined for an eternal life apart from Him.

But I hope the rest of Paul's letter to the Roman believers has helped us see what wonderful things God has done on our behalf!

What has God done for us?

- We have been forgiven of all our sins and accepted as perfectly righteous
Romans 3:23 (ESV) ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...
- *God accepted us because of the righteousness provided through Christ*
- We have peace with God (We're born enemies but made children secure in Him)
Romans 5:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We no longer must live as a slave to sin
Romans 6:6 (ESV) ...our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
- We have help, assurance, and security in Christ
Romans 8:26 (ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
Romans 8:38 (ESV) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

BIG Idea

What now? Because of all God has done FOR US, what does He expect FROM US?

Giving every part of our bodies to the Lord for Him to control is the only logical, intelligent, and right thing for us to do.

Information (What You Need to Know)

In what ways do we give every part of ourselves to God?

▪ We refuse to stay the same

- ✓ Present your body as an offering to God as an act of worship (repeatedly)

Romans 12:1 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

“The body is not evil in itself; if it were, God would not ask that it be offered to him. As an instrument, it can express either sin or righteousness. If the latter, then it is an offering *pleasing to God*.” – Expositor’s Bible Commentary

- ✓ Allow change to happen from the inside out

Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

“Every Christian is either a conformer, living for and like the world, or a transformer, daily becoming more like Christ.” – Warren Wiersbe

How does transformation happen?

James 1:22 (ESV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. **25** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

▪ We commit to behavior that marks a genuine Christian

- ✓ Conduct toward the Lord and those in the church

- Let love be genuine (love with right motives)
- Abhor what is evil; Hold fast to what is good (you can’t hold onto both)
- Love with brotherly affection (don’t be arrogant or standoffish)
- Outdo one another in showing honor (the opposite of selfishness)
- Don’t be slothful in zeal (give 100% in all you do)
- Be fervent in spirit (remain or abide in the Lord)
- Serve the Lord (commit to work on His behalf)
- Rejoice in hope (have an eye toward eternal life/heaven)
- Be patient in tribulation (be willing to wait in hardship)
- Be constant in prayer (attitude of prayer; reactionary in prayer)
- Contribute to the needs of the saints (help when it’s within your ability)
- Seek to show hospitality (pursuing those you don’t know)

- ✓ **Conduct toward those outside the church**
Romans 12:14 (ESV) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

- ✓ **Conduct toward all people**
 - Enter into the emotional feelings of others
Romans 12:15 (ESV) Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
 - Live in harmony, even with people who are not like you
Romans 12:16 (ESV) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.
 - Don't take revenge on your enemies, but do good to them
Romans 12:17 (ESV) Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.