

Romans 12

A Living Sacrifice

Romans at a Glance

- **Written by Paul in 57 AD**
 - **Paul's longest letter (7,114 words)**
 - **Sixth of the 13 letters attributed to Paul**
 - **He had yet to visit the church in Rome**
 - **He hoped to visit Rome on his way to Spain**
 - **His best laid plans went awry, and his 1st visit was in chains**
 - **Roman church was already well-established**
 - **No one knows how the church began (Acts 2:10)**
 - **Romans mentioned 26 individuals and two families**
 - **Phoebe delivered the letter to the church at Rome**

Romans 11

- **Takeaways from last week**
 - **Trust God's sovereignty**
 - **Remain humble and grateful**
 - **Appreciate the riches of His grace**
 - **Hold on to hope (God is good, we are grafted in)**
 - **Continually seek to protect unity in the body**

Romans 12: The Main Players

- **Paul**
 - **Known throughout the Roman Empire as an apostle, evangelist, and church planter**
 - **Arguably the most influential person in the New Testament other than Jesus**
- **The Roman Church**
 - **Jewish and Gentile believers**
 - **Fractures over non-essentials**

Romans 12: Setting the Stage

- **Romans Chapters 1-11 establish:**
 - **Our inability to save ourselves through the Law & our need for a Savior**
 - **God's sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to justify us**
 - **Our acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior and the beginning of sanctification**
 - **God's promise to Israel and how the Gentiles are integral to that promise**
 - **The goal: a unified Roman church!**

Romans 12: 1-3

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Romans 12: 1

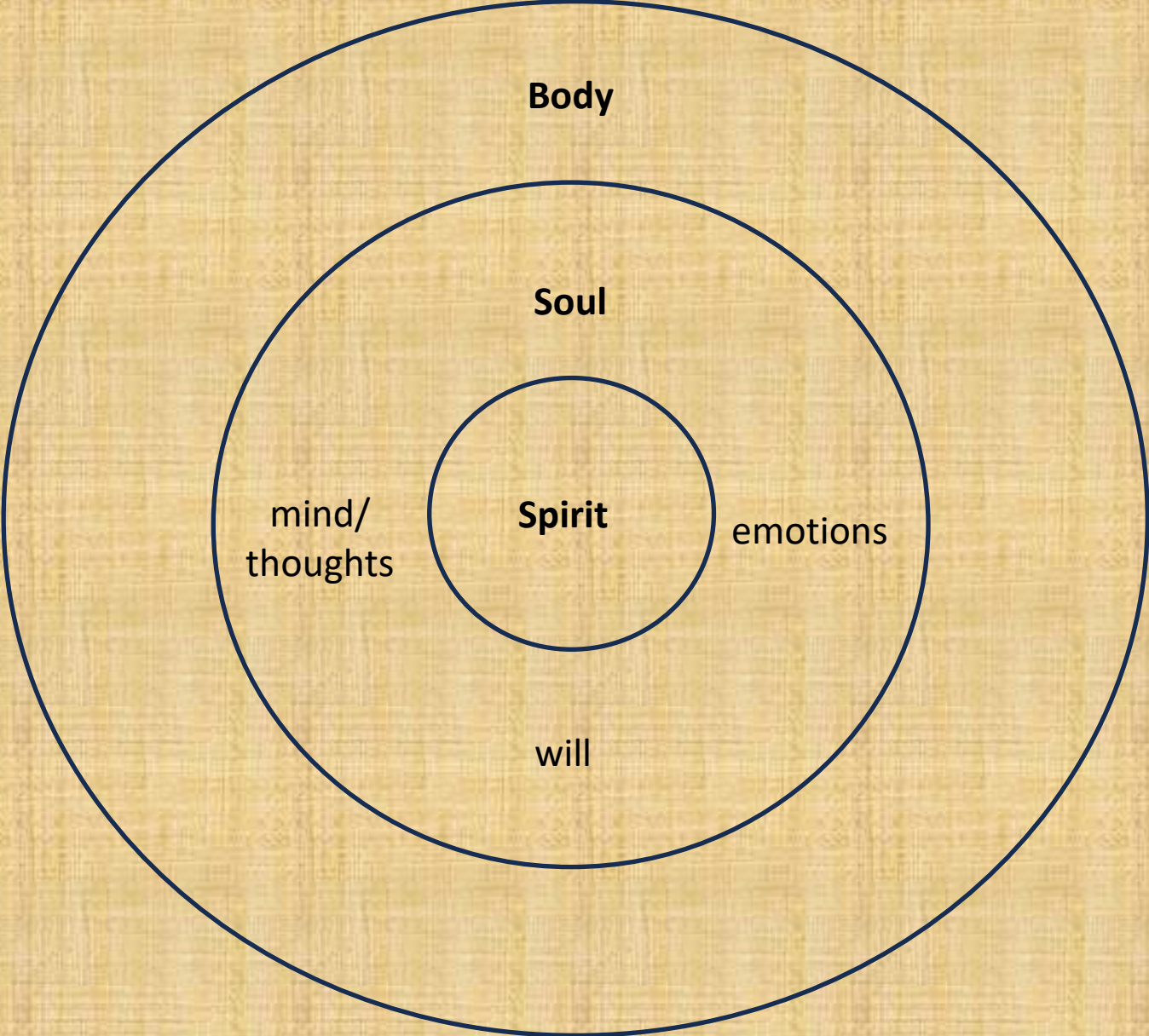
Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer or present your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing or acceptable to God

- **Present our bodies as a living sacrifice**
- **Present our bodies as holy**
- **Present our bodies as acceptable**

Romans 12: 1

Present = to bring or lead

- **Bring or lead our bodies a living sacrifice**
- **Bring or lead our bodies as holy**
- **Bring or lead our bodies as acceptable**



Body

Soul

Spirit

mind/
thoughts

emotions

will

Sacrifice

Definitions

- **An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to God or to a divine or supernatural figure**
- **An act of offering to a deity something precious**
- **Destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else**
- **Loss**

Sacrifice

Sacrifice in the Roman world

- A gift to the gods, heroes, emperors, or the dead
- Public or private
- Food offerings could be flesh, grain, fruit, milk, honey, et al.
 - Could be part of a sacrificial feast
- Regular citizens could perform sacrifices, but most arranged for a priest
- Human sacrifices were extremely rare and eventually outlawed

Sacrifice

Sacrifice in the Old Testament

- **Ritual sacrifices predated Mosaic law (Torah)**
 - Cain and Abel; Noah and his sons
- **The purpose of sacrifices (*qorbanot*) is the same as for prayer**
- **Atoning sacrifices require repentance before the offering, and restitution to anyone harmed**
 - Not for intentional or malicious sin?
- **Sacrifices varied but animal sacrifices have specific requirements and some could not be eaten**

Sacrifice

Blood atonement requires:

- **Sacrifice**
 - **Death, not mere bleeding**
- **Substitution**
 - **The victim's death is in place of the offeror**
- **Sufficiency**
 - **God deems whether the sacrifice is sufficient**

Sacrifice

LIVING

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26)

Sacrifice

CRUCIFIED

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith.” (Galatians 2:20)

Sacrifice

CRUCIFIED

“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” (Galatians 5:24)

HOLY

**PREPARED FOR God with solemn rite, pure, clean
SET APART, EXCLUSIVELY HIS**

**“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that
ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath
called you out of darkness into his marvelous
light.” (1 Peter 2:9)**

ACCEPTABLE

PLEASING, AGREEABLE

“And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father has not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.” (John 8:29)

ACCEPTABLE

PLEASING, AGREEABLE

John 8:29, “And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father has not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.”

HOW?

- **Bring or lead our bodies a living sacrifice**
- **Bring or lead our bodies as holy**
- **Bring or lead our bodies as acceptable**

HOW?

“I have not spoken of myself, but the Father gave me what to say and what to speak.” (John 12:49)

“I can do nothing by myself. I can only do what I see the Father doing.” (John 5:19)

HOW?

**COMPLETE
SURRENDER**

REASONABLE SERVICE

Worship God with our lives.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world

What does the world think and believe?

How does the world act?

Romans 12:2

Be transformed by renewing the mind

What does God think and believe?

How does God act?

Romans 12:2

RENEW

Read

Speak

Pray

Act

Romans 12:2

**Not being conformed to the world and renewing
our mind will:**

**“Prove what is that good, acceptable, and
perfect, will of God.”**

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.

The illustration of baptism

- **Our spirit was made alive at salvation**
- **Baptism is an outward expression of the inward change**
- **Leading our body and renewing our mind are an ongoing part of our spiritual journey**
- **Baptism is a symbol of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection**