

"Living Sacrifices"

More than we could ever have dreamed:

We have been given life
We have been given forgiveness
We have been given sanctification
We have been given eternal life

And it is entirely free!

But there is even more: God promises us a plan:

It is something that's good:	It is worthwhile
It is something that's pleasing:	It is satisfying
It is something that's perfect:	It is fulfilling

So why do we seem to become so discouraged?

Feelings of emptiness
Feelings of disappointment
Feelings of anger

The problem: When the church becomes all about me

What do I like
What meets my needs
What makes me feel good

God's solution: When I become the sacrifice

Making myself completely available
This is true worship
Resisting the patterns of the world
This is a life-style
Letting God transform me to his likeness
This is our source of power

What will we learn:

It is lived in community
It is expressed in action
It is characterized by integrity
It is results in victory

Romans 11:33-12:21

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"

35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer 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.

3 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 measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

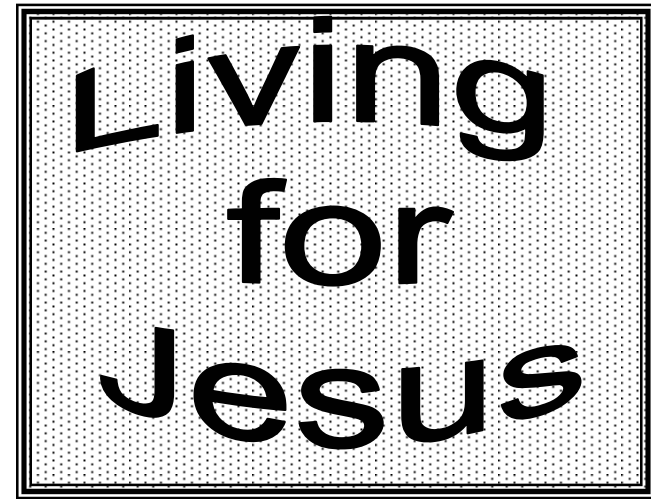
9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
NIV



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Romans 12:1-2

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**Pastor Philip C. Rogers
Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana**

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