

Spiritual Worship—Part 2

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Romans 12:1-21

“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.” (Romans 12:1, ESV)

Introduction

In Romans 11:25-36, the Apostle Paul teaches about the mysterious and marvelous wisdom and mercy of God through which those who are not physically descended from Abraham and Isaac are able to enter in the promises of blessing which God made to Abraham and to his descendants. This is the mercy that Paul refers to in what we call “chapter 12, verse 1” and which Paul attributes his own devotion to Christ as seen and heard in his life and words.

1. Loving God with my heart, mind, soul and strength. (vv. 1-5)

- a) Spiritual worship is intrinsically connected with the offering of our bodies, too.
- b) But we are not merely to give our bodies to God, but given them in service to others.

2. Serving God and one another as God enables us. (vv.6-8)

- a) We don't all fulfill the same function or the same ability, but have the same debt of love.
- b) Prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership and mercy are listed here.

3. Godly motives. (vv.9-21)

- a) Spiritual worship begins with sincere motives and results in words and acts of love.
- b) We are to imitate Christ in everything, showing and telling of His grace and truth.

Conclusion

The sacrifices of a New Testament follower of Jesus Christ begin in our hearts and with God's gifts and grace, and should result in holy, pleasing, joyful and hopeful lifestyles.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application

- 1) Read verses 1-5. Discuss what this kind of lifestyle might look like on an everyday basis.
- 2) In verses 6-8, which of these roles and gifts seem to best describe how God has made you?
- 3) Read verses 9-21. What do you do well and poorly? Confess and pray for each other.

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