

I. Introduction: Theology produces doxology and application. 11:33ff Js. 1:22 Mt. 7:24ff

II. Consecrate yourself to God. v. 1

- A. The motivation for your obedience is God's mercy.**
- 1. Your motivation is not:**
 - a. Seeking to earn God's favor by your works. 3:20ff 11:35**
 - b. Fear of wrath. I John 4:18**
 - 2. God's gracious mercy moves you to serve Him out of gratitude.**
 - 3. A true understanding of God's mercy produces obedience, not sinful license. 2:4 6:1**
 - 4. True moral goodness is only possible for those who know God's mercy. 8:7-8**
 - 5. If you want to become a better person, meditate on God's grace and mercy.**
 - 6. What God has done for us motivates and enables us to do (good works) for Him.**
- B. God's mercy compels your commitment to His service.**
- 1. While we must start with what God has done for us, we can't stop there. We also are called to serve Him.**
 - 2. Paul uses sacrificial language. Heb. 10:14 I Pet. 2:5 Rev. 1:6 5:10**
 - 3. Your presentation of yourself is voluntary.**
 - 4. Your commitment is total. Phil. 1:21 2:17 I Co. 15:31 Gal. 2:20**
 - 5. Jesus also spoke of the importance of a total commitment to Him. Mark 8:34ff**
 - 6. Your consecration is both once and for all, and ongoing.**
- C. That which is to be presented to God is your body.**
- 1. Your body is important. 8:23,10-11 Phil. 3:3 I Th. 5:23**
 - 2. Your body is the instrument by which you formerly sinned against God. 6:12ff 7:23**
 - 3. Instead of presenting your body to sin, present your body to God as an instrument of righteousness. I Co. 6:19-20,15 10:31**
- D. You present a sacrifice to God which is superior to those of the Old Covenant.**
- 1. You are a living sacrifice. 6:4 8:6,10**
 - 2. Your sacrifice is holy. I Pe. 1:18-19,15-16**
 - 3. Such sacrifice is *acceptable (well pleasing)* to God. II Co. 5:9**
 - 4. This is your *spiritual (reasonable)* service of worship.**
- E. How can you practice this wholehearted devotion to God?**
- 1. A sacrifice of praise. Heb. 13:15**
 - 2. Sacrificial giving. Heb. 13:16 Phil. 4:18 II Co. 8:5**
 - 3. Sacrificial service. 12:3-8**
 - 4. Sacrificial love. 12:9-16**

III. Consecrate yourself to God through being spiritually transformed. v. 2

- A. Don't be conformed to this world (age). v. 2a I Pe. 1:14**
- 1. You belong not to this age, but to the age to come. Gal. 1:4 I Co. 7:31 2:6 He. 6:5 I John 2:17 5:19 II Co. 4:4 Eph. 1:21 Phil. 3:20**
 - 2. Reject the ungodly world system: hedonism, materialism, secularism, humanism, post-modernism, relativism etc. I John 2:15-17 I Co. 3:18 Judges 21:25**
 - 3. Worldliness threatens your ability to consecrate yourself to God. Js. 4**
 - 4. Paul does not mean that you must become a monk or a nun or that you must reject every aspect of culture. I Tim. 4:3-5 Col. 2:23**

5. Paul does mean that we should do whatever it takes to remain pure. Mt. 5:29-30
I Co. 15:33 Prov. 1:8ff II Ti. 2:22
- B. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. v. 2b
1. Inward transformation is essential if you are to devote yourself to God. 6:11 8:5-6
 2. Sanctification (spiritual growth in holiness) is an ongoing work of God which utilizes human effort. Phil. 2:12-13 II Th. 2:13 II Co. 3:18 4:16 Col. 3:10
 3. You are being transformed to the likeness of Christ. (metamorphosis) 8:29
II Co. 3:18 4:16 Col. 3:1-2,10
 4. How can you participate in the renewing of your mind? Ps. 1 19:7-11 Phil. 4:8-9
- C. The result is that you will be conformed to God's will. v. 2c
1. Your renewed mind will discern and agree with God's ways.
 2. God's ways are well pleasing (acceptable) and perfect. Mt. 5:48 Ps. 119:97 19:10

IV. Concluding applications.

Discussion Questions.

- A. Which of these statements best reflects your life?
1. I matter most. Whatever satisfies me is most important.
or: Man exists to glorify God
 2. If I earn enough money, I'll be happy.
or: Money cannot protect you from heartbreak, sin, disease and disaster.
 3. Anything is acceptable as long as it doesn't hurt another person.
or: I am accountable to God for all my thoughts and actions.
 4. Success is the path to fame, wealth, pleasure and power.
or: Success in God's kingdom means humility and service to others.
 5. The universe is impersonal and subject to natural laws and chance.
or: God is in control of all things and has a purpose for everything that happens.
 6. All religions are basically the same. You can't be sure which, if any, is right.
or: No-one can be right with God apart from faith in Jesus Christ.
 7. The church needs to change its doctrine in order to fit in with changing times.
or: God's Word is infallible and unchanging.
- B. Can you identify labels ("isms") for the false statements above?
- C. How has the church today been affected by the wrong statements above?
- D. What does it mean to present yourself to God as a living sacrifice?
- E. What can you do in practical terms to devote yourself to God?
- F. What are some worldly versus Christlike motivations for: losing weight, making good grades, and working hard?