

**I. Introduction and review: Theology leads to application. .**

**II. Consecrate yourself to God. v. 1**

- A. The motivation for your obedience is God's mercy.**
1. Your motivation is not works righteousness or fear. 3:20f 11:35 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. 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.
- B. God's mercy compels your commitment to His service.**
1. Paul uses sacrificial language. Heb. 9:25-10:18 I Pet. 2:5 Rev. 1:6 5:10
  2. Your presentation of yourself is voluntary.
  3. Your commitment is total. Phil. 1:21 2:17 I Co. 15:31 Gal. 2:20
  4. Your consecration is both once and for all, and ongoing. II Co. 4:16 3:18
- C. That which is to be presented to God is your body.**
1. Your body is important. 8:23,10-11 Phil. 3:31 I Th. 5:23
  2. Your body is the instrument by which you sin. 6:12-13 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 I Co. 10:31
- D. You present a superior sacrifice to God. Pr. 15:8**
1. You are a living sacrifice. 6:4 8:6,10
  2. You sacrifice must be holy. Mal. 1:8-13 Ps. 24:4
  3. Such sacrifice is *acceptable (well pleasing)* to God.
  4. This is your *spiritual (reasonable)* service of worship. 1:23-25 I Sa. 15:22 Jo. 4:23
- 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

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

- A. Don't be conformed to this world (age). v. 2a**
1. The world (this present age) tries to press you into its mold.
  2. 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
  3. Reject the ungodly world system: hedonism, materialism, secularism, humanism, relativism. I John 2:15-17 I Co. 3:18
  4. Worldliness threatens your ability to consecrate yourself to God. Js. 4:4
  5. Paul does not mean:
    - a. You must become a monk or a nun. I Tim. 4:3-5 Col. 2:23
    - b. You must reject every aspect of culture.
  6. It does men you must do whatever it takes to remain pure. 12:14 14:23 I Co. 15:33 10:31 Mt. 5:29-30 Prov. 1:8f Ps. 1 II Ti. 2:22 I Pe. 4:4

- 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 requires 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). II Co. 3:18 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.**

- A. Your theology must be applied.
- B. Your motive for obedience is important. Devotion is founded upon God's mercy.
- C. Devote (present) yourself wholly and holy to God. Ps. 116:12 Phil. 1:27
- D. Promote your devotion to Him by continually being transformed.

**Discussion Questions for Family Worship.**

- A. Which of these statements best reflects your beliefs?**
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 so 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 and Christlike motivations for: losing weight, making good grades, and working hard?**