

LESSON 10

BECOMING A LIVING SACRIFICE

ROMANS 12



1 When did you really have to sacrifice for something? What did you give up? What made you willing to invest so much of yourself to achieve that goal?



Read Romans 12 and the following notes:

☐ 12:1 ☐ 12:1, 2 ☐ 12:2 ☐ 12:3 ☐ 12:4–8 ☐ 12:6 ☐ 12:6–8 ☐ 12:9 ☐ 12:10 ☐ 12:13 ☐ 12:17–21 ☐ 12:19–21

2 What sacrifice is Paul talking about?

3 What does Paul mean when he writes, “Be honest in your estimate of yourselves” (verse 3)?

4 How can good overcome evil?

5 How does the world define success? How are we pressured to conform to these standards?



6 What can we do to resist the pressures of the world? What does it mean to refuse to conform?

7 What does it mean to let God change the way you think? How can this happen?

8 How can you tell the difference between sincere and phony love? What is more common today and why?

Sacrifice for Christians does not involve killing an animal on an altar—it is willingly surrendering ourselves to the will of God. And we don't do this because of what we will gain or even because we know it is right. We do it out of gratitude for what God has already done for us through Jesus Christ. This living sacrifice involves the body, mind, and will. There can be no holding back. Living sacrificially can be difficult when life is easy and comfortable, and where success is defined by the world in terms of "more is better." When we have so much, we lose sight of the fundamental importance of serving God through serving others. We focus on our own needs and defend our rights. As a result, we don't show others the kind of love the Lord has shown to us. We need to get our thinking straight if we are going to build God's Kingdom together.



9 What keeps us from giving our body to God for service? our mind? our will? Why is it so difficult for us to sacrifice?

10 Why can forgiveness be hard to give and to receive? Where do you need to become more forgiving? Where do you need to be forgiven?

11 If someone filmed the past week of your life, what sacrifices would they have recorded? What evidence of conforming to the world's standards would they see? what acts of selflessness? what evidence of selfishness?

12 Verses 9–19 contain a number of attributes that we can struggle with as we try to love others. Evaluate yourself by circling the number that best represents how you are doing with each attribute.



		<i>Not a problem</i>		<i>Somewhat a problem</i>		<i>Serious problem</i>
12:9	sincerity	1	2	3	4	5
12:10	love	1	2	3	4	5
12:11	enthusiasm	1	2	3	4	5
12:12	patience	1	2	3	4	5
12:13	sharing	1	2	3	4	5
12:13	hospitality	1	2	3	4	5
12:15	empathy	1	2	3	4	5
12:16	harmony	1	2	3	4	5
12:16	pride	1	2	3	4	5
12:19	revenge	1	2	3	4	5

Which ones do you struggle with the most? What could you do about these?

13 Review the trouble spots in the chart above. What are you prepared to do this week to demonstrate your love for others in these areas?

- A** How did Paul know the Roman church’s issues if he had never been there?
- B** In Romans 12:3, what does Paul suggest concerning the use of our mind?
- C** List the spiritual gifts in Romans 12:6–8. Define each in concrete, practical terms.
- D** What might help you and other believers understand Paul’s teachings more fully and apply them more effectively? How can you identify your spiritual gifts?

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