

How to Serve in Your Sweet Spot

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,

Therefore because of all that he has done...he expects a response.

...To offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Sacrifice: “to burn...or turn to smoke.”

When you sacrifice something you take away your control of it.

² *Do not conform to the pattern of this world,*

A world-shaped mind fights for its rights and preferences.

...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Transformation is God's job.

But you deliberately bring yourself to the altar of sacrifice.

...Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Pleasing: fully agreeable.

You will never find your sweet spot in life until you offer God the control of your life.

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 faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For 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, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Two observations

1. You have responsibility for us.

Every need that exists in the church would be met if every person in the church did their part as God designed.

2. You have capacity to make a difference.

We all have special capacities and we all have general capacities and we need to think of both.

Two Facts about serving

-It takes time.

-It takes saying no to the right thing.

So What?

1. Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God.
2. Offer your time and then follow through.
3. Try something...and if it isn't sweet...try something else.

*Offer yourself as a living sacrifice
this is your reasonable and sensible
worship response to God.*

Today's Scripture is from The New International Version
John Bray, September 24 & 25, 2011

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The sermon is posted on the church web site by Monday evening.

www.heritageqc.com Hit "**Watch sermon on-line**"

To dig deeper, visit John's blog at www.NowWhatJohn.com

Now What? Resources for Reflection & Growth

The Apostle Paul (author of Romans) starts Romans 12 with the word, “Therefore.” Let’s take a quick highlight tour of Romans 1-11 to get an idea of what the “therefore” is there for.

- Read: Romans 1:16-17; 3:22-24; 5:6-8; 6:6-7; 6:23; 8:5-6; 8:28
- What stands out to you? What thoughts or verses grab you and give the most weight to the “therefore”?

Read Romans 12:1-2

- Why do you think the idea of sacrifice is so difficult?
- Why do you think we are willing to sacrifice to buy a house or to get a promotion at work but resist the idea when it comes to God?
- Since salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23) do you think the idea of sacrifice feels like a bait and switch? What do you think Jesus would say?

What do you think it means to “conform to the pattern of this world”? What are some ways that you tend to conform to the world? What are some signals in your own life that you are at risk?

Read Galatians 6:14; 2 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 2:15-17

How would you summarize these verses in your own words?

Read Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24 & 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

What do you think might be some characteristics of someone who has a mind which is spiritual renewed or transformed?

Romans 12:3-8 talks about serving. Romans 12:9-21 talks about how a Christ-follower is supposed to treat others. Spiritual maturity *always* connects to serving. (see Mark 10:41-45 & Mark 12:30-31)

Think about how you might help God help others. Answer the following.

- What are you good at? What natural talents do you have?
- What skills have you developed in the work place? Why would you not bring these into service for God? Why would you be unwilling to do for God what you are willing to do for money?
- What “why doesn’t somebody do something about...” thoughts recur in your life? These might be a signal that calls you to invest yourself?

Share some of your answers with others and think about this question.

- How could I invest myself in serving (either in the church or outside the setting of the church) in a way that makes a difference in the lives of others?