



Be A Living Sacrifice Unto God

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

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“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Introduction

The greatness of God over the entire creation, His Power and Love towards mankind demands our proper rational response of gratitude manifested in terms of respect, devotion and submission. Romans 12:1–2 calls believers to wholehearted surrender, rejecting worldly patterns and embracing inner transformation through renewed minds. Paul urges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices—holy and pleasing to God—and to allow His truth to reshape our thinking. As we do, we begin to discern and walk in God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will, living lives that reflect His mercy and purpose. Let’s consider this in five parts:

- 1) The Call to Present Ourselves to God as “A Living Sacrifice”
- 2) The Warning: “Be not conformed to this world”
- 3) The Command: “Be ye transformed”
- 4) The Method: “By the renewing of your mind”
- 5) The Result: “Prove the good, acceptable, perfect will of God”

I. The Call to Present Ourselves to God as “A Living Sacrifice”

There are four components in the call:

1. The Appeal: “I beseech you... by the mercies of God”

Paul does not command; he **pleads**. He urges us based on **God’s mercies**—His compassion, forgiveness, patience, and salvation. This echoes David’s cry in Psalm 51:1: *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness”*. Paul’s logic is simple: **God has been so merciful to you—now give yourself fully to Him.**

2. The Offering: “Present your bodies”

In the Old Testament, sacrifices were **dead offerings** laid on an altar. But God now wants **living sacrifices** in terms of our daily lives, choices, habits, and bodies. Paul reinforces this in 1 Corinthians 6:20: *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* Your body is not a disposable shell; it is a **temple** entrusted to you for worship.

3. The Nature of the Sacrifice: “Holy, acceptable unto God”

Holiness is not perfection; it is **separation unto God**. Acceptable means **pleasing** to Him. God is not impressed by talent, eloquence, or performance. He delights in **obedience**: *“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice”* **1 Samuel 15:22.**

4. The Logic: “Your reasonable service”

The Greek word *logikos* means **logical, rational, intelligent worship**. It is only reasonable to give God everything because **He gave us everything.**



Consider Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac (Genesis 22). This shows his total surrender. Isaac was placed on the altar, but God provided a ram. Abraham offered his son **in intention**, and God accepted it.

To illustrate further, consider the story of the firefighter. A firefighter once ran into a burning building to save a child. When asked why he risked his life, he said, "Because someone's life was worth it." Paul says: *Your life is worth giving to God because His mercy saved you first.*

II. The Warning: "Be not conformed to this world"

To heed this warning, we must actively resist the pressure to conform into the world's mould.

1. The Pressure of Conformity

The world constantly tries to **shape** us—our values, priorities, identity. John warns: "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.*" **1 John 2:15**. Conformity is passive. You don't need effort to conform; you simply **go with the flow**.

2. The World's Mold

The world's mould includes:

- Self-centredness
- Moral compromise
- Materialism
- Pride
- Pleasure without responsibility

Paul warns elsewhere: "*Evil communications corrupt good manners.*" **1 Corinthians 15:33**

In Babylon, Daniel refused the king's meat (Daniel 1). He refused to bow to idols (Daniel 3). He refused to stop praying (Daniel 6). Daniel did not conform—even when everyone else did.

As an illustration, consider the Milgram Experiment. In the 1960s, psychologist Stanley Milgram discovered that ordinary people would obey harmful instructions simply because an authority figure told them to. The world pressures conformity—even when it leads to harm.

III. The Command: "Be ye transformed"

There are three components in transformation—internal, ongoing and Divine.

1. Transformation Is Internal

Transformation is not behaviour modification; it is **inner renewal**. Paul explains: "*Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*" **2 Corinthians 4:16**.

2. Transformation Is Ongoing

The verb "be ye transformed" is continuous. It is not a one-time event but a **daily process**.

3. Transformation Is Divine

The word *metamorphoō* is the same used for Jesus' transfiguration: "*And was transfigured before them.*" **Matthew 17:2**. God changes us from the inside out, as illustrated in the story of the potter and the clay. Jeremiah saw the potter shaping clay: "*So he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.*" **Jeremiah 18:4**

Transformation is God reshaping us. A caterpillar becomes a butterfly through metamorphosis. It



does not learn to fly—it **becomes** something new. Transformation is not self-improvement; it is **new creation**.

IV. The Method: “By the renewing of your mind”

1. Renewal Comes Through the Word

Jesus prayed: “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*” **John 17:17**. The Word washes the mind.

2. Renewal Comes Through the Spirit

Paul writes: “*Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*” **Galatians 5:16**. The Spirit empowers new thinking.

3. Renewal Comes Through Worship

Worship shifts our focus from self to God. David says: “*In thy presence is fulness of joy.*” **Psalms 16:11**.

As an illustration, a computer infected with malware behaves unpredictably. The solution is not to type harder, but rather to **install a new operating system**. Renewing the mind is God installing His truth into our thinking.

V. The Result: “Prove the good, acceptable, perfect will of God”

1. You Discover God’s Will

Not guess it. Not fear it. Not resist it. You **prove** it—experience it.

2. God’s Will Is Good

God’s will is never harmful or destructive. Jeremiah declares: “*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you... thoughts of peace, and not of evil.*” **Jeremiah 29:11**

3. God’s Will Is Acceptable

Acceptable means **pleasing**—both to God and ultimately to you.

4. God’s Will Is Perfect

Perfect means complete, mature, lacking nothing. David testifies: “*As for God, his way is perfect.*” **Psalms 18:30**.

Joseph endured betrayal, slavery, and prison. But at the end he said: “*God meant it unto good.*” **Genesis 50:20**

As an illustration, a GPS recalculates when you take a wrong turn. God’s will is not fragile; He can redirect your life no matter where you are.

In conclusion, The Transformed Life described in Romans 12:1–2 is not about trying harder; it is about yielding deeper.

- Present your body.
- Resist conformity.
- Embrace transformation.
- Renew your mind.
- Walk in God’s perfect will.

This is the life God desires—and the life that brings true joy, purpose, and power.