

SIN: It's The Wrong Way to Live

Introduction:

- A. **[My 10 year journey]**
 - B. *What does God want from my life?*
 - C. Romans 12:1&2
 - D. Paul
 - a. "Therefore"
 - i. "Based on everything I just said"
 - ii. Sin, salvation, & doxology
 - b. "I beseech"
 - i. To plead, urge, or call
 - ii. A challenge
 - E. "As Christians, we must take up Paul's challenge for our daily lives."
 - F. What?
 - G. 2 Challenges:
 - I. We are challenged to be sacrificed.
 - a. We should offer our bodies as living sacrifices. (1a)
 - i. What does that mean?
 - 1. We are to give God our bodies.
 - a. "present"
 - i. A Levitical term.
 - 1. Priest would "present" the sacrifice.
 - 2. They would bring the object to be offered.
 - ii. Paul is saying that we need to offer up our bodies to God.
 - b. The initial act of **presenting** is a onetime event.
 - i. GK - First aorist active infinitive
 - ii. A "once for all" action.
2. To be a living sacrifice means to give God our whole bodies.
 - a. We use to give our bodies to sin.
 - i. It had full dominion.
 - ii. But know we have died to sin and are alive in Christ.
 - b. Therefore, we are to stop giving our bodies to sin and give them to God.
 - i. Rom. 6:13
 - ii. This means that we commit to give God our whole bodies.
 - 1. Our thoughts, desires, and plans
 - 2. Our free time, pleasures, and behaviors.
 - 3. The total person.
3. **[Marriage]**

- i. Love, grace, power, kindness & forgiveness.
 - ii. Propitiation, reconciliation, justification, conformation, glorification, & resurrection.
 - iii. Eternal life, faith, peace, hope, & freedom.
 - 2. We should want to offer our bodies to Him as a response to all that He has done for us!
- b. We should offer our bodies as God wants them. (1b)
 - i. We are to offer our bodies as “holy”.
 - 1. Holy
 - a. Lit - “to set apart for a special purpose”
 - b. We are to daily live set apart for God.
 - c. This means not just to be spiritually pure, but morally pure.
 - d. **[Not in politics]**
 - 2. Why should we act holy?
 - a. *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* – 1 Cor. 6:19-20
 - b. Rom. 8:9 – {indwelling}
 - c. *“according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* – Phil. 1:20-21

- ii. We are to offer our bodies as “acceptable”.
 - 1. Acceptable – living up to God’s standard.
 - a. We can’t before salvation.
 - b. But now we are expected to!
 - 2. How?
 - a. Live like Christ!
 - i. O.T. sacrifices was to be without spot or blemish
 - ii. We to should offer our lives like Jesus.
 - b. It should be our goal to live a life that is acceptable.
- c. We should offer our bodies as worship. (1c)
 - i. Notice that Paul calls being a living sacrifice and act of service.
 - 1. “Service”
 - a. NASB – “service of worship”
 - b. This is a reference back to the priestly service.
 - i. The act of sacrifice
 - ii. Sacrifice = worship!
 - 2. Paul is points out that true acts of worship, start by being self sacrifice.
 - a. Worship is not what we think.
 - i. It is not – *elaborate prayers, stained glass, lighted candles, cloths, or music*
 - ii. It is not – *great talent, skill, or leadership ability*
 - b. True worship comes from a heart and body given over to God.
 - ii. Notice Paul calls it a reasonable service.
 - 1. Other translations – “act of spiritual worship”
 - a. “reasonable”
 - i. A logical or rational response.

- ii. The spirit is the deepest resource of logical
 - iii. There for “spiritual”
 - b. What Paul is saying is that being a living sacrifice is the worship that is rendered by reason or soul
- 2. The only logical way to worship God is to be self sacrificed.
 - a. This means that when we daily offer ourselves to God, we are daily worshiping.
 - b. **[Little Girl & Offering plate]**

“The second challenge...”

- II. We are challenged to be different.
 - a. We should have a life that is not conformed. (2a)
 - i. We are not supposed to mask our lives.
 - 1. “Conform”
 - a. {To masquerade or act}
 - b. **[Mission Impossible]**
 - c. To put on a front that hides the truth.
 - 2. Paul is saying that we do not need to let our outwardly lives hide what is true of our spiritual lives.
 - a. “*Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*” – Matt. 5:15 ~ Jesus
 - b. We are told not to allow our true selves to be hidden.
 - ii. We are to be different than the world.
 - 1. Are actions are not to be like that of a worldly person.
 - a. “*Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould*” – J. B. Phillips

- b. We are not to put on the pattern of this age.
 - c. We are not to allow the world to fashion our lives to its evil.
- 2. Why?
 - a. The world is dominated by Satan.
 - b. “World”
 - i. Lit. – “age”
 - ii. {this present sinful age}
 - c. We are not to put on the current sinful philosophy of life.
 - i. Entertainment
 - ii. Fashion
 - iii. Vocabulary
 - iv. Attitude
 - v. We should be different
 - d. “*It is not uncommon for unbelievers to mask themselves as Christians. Unfortunately, it also is not uncommon for Christians to wear the world’s masks.*” – John MacArthur
- b. We should have a mindset that is transformed. (2b)
 - i. We are to let God change how we think.
 - 1. “Transformed”
 - a. Same as “transfigure” – Matt. 17:2
 - b. English – “Metamorphosis”
 - i. It is a change from within
 - ii. It is a change of the outer appearance.
 - iii. **[Transformers]**
 - 2. Our inner redeemed nature is to be shown outwardly.
 - a. Like Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration

- b. *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” – 2 Cor. 3:18*
 - 3. How is this done?
 - ii. We have to have a renewal of our minds.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit starts this renewal in us.
 - a. He transforms our thinking.
 - b. *“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” – Col. 3:2*
 - 2. A renewed mind thinks differently than that of the world.
 - a. The Holy Spirit uses the Bible...
 - b. *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” – Ps. 119:11*
 - c. A changed mind produces a changed life.
 - d. We are to think and live like Christ.
 - e. **[Sin & Bible reading]**
- c. We should have a will that God has formed. (2c)
 - i. It is every Christian’s responsibility to know what God’s will is for their life.
 - 1. “That you may prove”
 - a. Lit. {to discern or examine}
 - b. *“that by testing you may discern what is the will of God” - ESV*
 - 2. God’s will can be found!
 - a. **[Man – “Judas went and hanged himself, Go and do thou likewise, & whatsoever thou doest, do quickly]**
 - b. But it takes a sacrificed life and a transformed mind first!

- c. We have to surrender our will, desire, and motivation to find God’s will.
 - ii. We must understand how different God’s will is to the worlds.
 - 1. Notice the aspects of God’s will.
 - a. Good – His will is the best.
 - b. Acceptable – His will is not only acceptable to Him, but to us!
 - c. Perfect – “complete” God’s will is perfect and will complete your life!
 - 2. When our will is changed we desire what God desires.
 - a. We will be living how He wants.
 - b. Over time God will help us understand how to do it!

Conclusion

- A. Have you been living up to the challenge?
- B. Are you conformed or are you transformed?