Service is Sacrifice

Ken Chapman · Romans 12:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- From whom the whole body joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
- This morning I want us to grow together in our sacrifice.
- The difference between a contribution and a sacrifice. Take this morning's breakfast. The chicken offered a contribution. The pig made a sacrifice.

1 Sacrifice Has Always Been Part of Man's Relationship to God

Philippians 2:17; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:5

- They were offering sacrifices to God as early as the third chapter in the entire Bible.
- He didn't leave a trail of breadcrumbs. He left behind a trail of altars everywhere Abraham went.
- If I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
- By him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God. That is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name.
- The New Testament writers so argue that everything we do in service to God is a sacrifice.

2 Why Do We Sacrifice?

- God wants us to understand that he must be first. Sacrifice demands that.
- Sacrifice also teaches us that God's in control.
- It also surely teaches this lesson that serving must cost.
- Sacrificing in some small way makes us like Christ Himself, who is our sacrifice.

3 We Sacrifice to God by Sacrificing for Others Through Service

Romans 12:1–2; Romans 12:3–8; Romans 12:9–13

- That you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- Here's how your living becomes a sacrifice on the altar before the throne of God. By not thinking more highly of yourself than you ought to think.
- By being a part of the body of Christ, and giving and doing whatever your part in that body is to the absolute best of your living ability.
- Here's how you lay your living lives on the altar of God. You serve one another. That is your living sacrifice.
- It's a sacrifice. Or it's not real service.

4 How Am I Doing?

- If we were to place the same conditions upon New Testament sacrifice that were placed upon Old Testament sacrifice, how would we hold up?
- You come to my altar and you bring the lame, the blind, these worthless sacrifice. You're not sacrificing.
- Am I giving God the blind and the lame of my life?
- Or am I truly giving him? Making him first. Putting him in control. Truly sacrificing to him.

5 Ways of Sacrificing Through Serving

- You can attend the services, including Bible classes.
- You can encourage those who lead singing and lead in prayer and take those leadership roles.
- Encourage those who've recently obeyed the gospel.
- If someone goes astray, we need to seek to restore them.
- Do we realize that we are actively discouraging one another and actively discouraging the cause of Christ through our inactivity?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why not enter that relationship? Why not begin that life of sacrifice today? Why not obey the gospel?**

MY NOTES