

From My Heart to Yours

Romans 12:1-8

Our ‘god’ is the thing, or person, which we think most precious, for whom we would make the greatest sacrifice, and who moves our heart with the warmest love. He is the person or thing that if lost would leave us desolate.”

Alan Redpath

Live a sacrificial life (Romans 12:1; 6:13)

Biblical sacrifice is not based on self-denial or a martyr’s complex; or even what’s in it for us; it’s based on gratitude for what God has done for us.

The presentation is not a question of if we present our bodies, it is a question of which god will we sacrifice to. (Romans 6:13)

It is worship that is true when it is pure in motive and totality; it is proper when it is the right response to God.

Live a transformed life (Romans 12:2; Mark 9:2-3 James 1:5-6)

A new perspective

The warning: don’t respond to outward pressure to conform

Culturally identifying with the world for our values and standards will always put the church at risk. We are to be salt and light to purify and enlighten contemporary culture.

Conformity responds to outward influence; transformed minds respond to inner change. (Mark 9:2)

In the renewing of the mind, it is God who powers the transformation; it is we who flip the switch.

A new ability: testing and approving God's will

It is good because it works.

It is pleasing because it expresses God's nature.

It is perfect because nothing can improve on it.

Live a life of proper self-awareness (Romans 12:3-8)

Our opinion of ourselves should not be too high or too low.

It should be arrived at seriously and in recognition of who God made us to be.

It should propel us to live for the benefit of others in unity and service.