

#12: **Godly with Two O's**

I.	ROMANS 1-3	The Bad News:	<i>The Wrath of God</i>
II.	ROMANS 4	The Good News:	<i>Justification through faith</i>
III.	ROMANS 5-8	The Good News:	<i>The Benefits of Justification</i>
IV.	ROMANS 9-11		<i>What about Israel?</i>

TODAY'S QUESTION: What do you do with an urgent request?

EVERY DAY'S ANSWER: It depends! (Of course it does!) **But what does it depend on?**

- a) Does it depend on **HOW REASONABLE** a request it is?
- b) Does it depend on **HOW COSTLY** an action it involves?
- c) Does it depend on **HOW SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE** that action is?

It may well depend on these, but there is **ONE OVERRIDING CONDITION** even more important...

- d) **It depends on WHO IT IS doing the urging!** At least it should!

- ✓ If you are a soldier and it is your commanding officer...
- ✓ If you are a servant and it is your master...
- ✓ If you are a child and it is your father... and if he is very wise and very loving father.

↪ **HERE:** The urgent request is to **present your body to God as a sacrifice**, that is, like a priest would bring a gift to the altar and so present it to God, we are to present to God our whole life. To live in an intention of complete dedication: "a living and holy sacrifice!"

- **A holy sacrifice** means set apart entirely for God: *every action dedicated to this One you love.*
- **A living sacrifice** means that you will always be needing to re-commit yourself: but that's like any other commitment: to church, to your job, to your marriage, etc.
- **But it's NOT a "sacrifice"** in the sense of heroically giving up something that you own. It's a sacrifice in the sense of a presentation that a priest makes: a gift to God... but a gift of something that He gave to you for the purpose.

↪ **It's worth noticing** that even though this urgent request comes, through the apostle Paul, from God Himself: our wise and loving Father AND our Commanding Officer AND our Master, there IS a place for examining the request in regard to these concerns.

1) Is it reasonable? Yes it is!

Romans 12:1 (KJV) 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.***

- It's **reasonable** in view of "***the mercies of God***"

Romans 11:30-32 For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown **mercy** because of their disobedience, so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the **mercy** shown to you they also may now be shown **mercy**. For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show **mercy** to all.

2) Is it costly? Yes, it is! But that shouldn't slow us down!

Romans 5:6-10 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.... while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- NOTICE: One of the sources of the difficulty is the degree to which living this dedicated life is **so counter-cultural!** Which leads us to the other question... (“**Is it socially acceptable?**”)

3) **Is it socially acceptable?**

No, it's not! Not at all! So we will need to go against the flow ...

[NEXT TIME:]

Romans 12:2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may **prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

TO SUMMARIZE:

- **God urges us to dedicate our entire life to Him.**
- **It's a costly life-long, life-wide sacrifice, but it's entirely reasonable that we do make this dedication.**

SO HOW DO WE DO IT?

Two big concepts.

1. **Ownership**

Whose life is it anyway? This is NOT a matter of ACTUALLY turning over the ownership of your life to God. There is no lease to sign; no deed to turn over. Rather, this is a matter of ACKNOWLEDGING the truth that He IS the owner, whatever you are up to.

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the LORD'S, and **all it contains**, The world, and those who dwell in it.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own?** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Acknowledging the plain truth of the matter. But don't shy away from this or hold back! Huge benefits to experience! **Jim Elliot**: In **January 1951**, (A young man with just five years left to live!) he wrote the following in his journal:

"I walked out to the hill just now. It is exalting, delicious. To stand embraced by the shadows of a friendly tree with the wind tugging at your coattail and the heavens hailing your heart, to gaze and glory and to give oneself again to God, what more could a man ask?"

Oh, the fullness, pleasure, sheer excitement of knowing God on earth. I care not if I never raise my voice again for Him, if only I may love Him, please Him. Maybe, in mercy, He shall give me a host of children that I may lead through the vast star fields to explore His delicacies whose fingers' ends set them to burning. But if not, if only I may see Him, smell His garments, and smile into His eyes, ah, then, not stars, nor children, shall matter--only Himself."

It begins with acknowledging His ownership: His right to all that you have: His right to YOU.

But there's more. A second obligation:

Two Big O's: "Godly [Devoted! Godward!] with two O's" → Acknowledge OWNERSHIP + Act in OBEDIENCE

2. Obedience → Your time; Your money; Your sexuality; Your appetites; Your relationships "Yes" to God/ "No" to sin!

i) To stay out of trouble ii) To get in on the blessings of God.

The offer of life instead death, health instead of disease, love instead of hate, joy instead of grief. [Hence→ Urgent!]

iii) To present your life to God: one piece at a time:

Romans 6:12,13

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

"Watch this!" What Red Green says ... but a child to his father: trained with wisdom and understanding.

The alarm clock goes off: "Watch this!" ...