

Romans

(43) What a Living Sacrifice looks like

The entrance fee to God's kingdom is nothing, but the annual dues are everything.

Our special responsibility to the family of God...Rom.12:9-13

What is the amazing truth of the service of a living sacrifice? Col.1:29

It's a "diving cooperative". It's our fervent work, according to His power in us!

What is the first attribute of a living sacrifice? vs.9a; ICor.13:13; Gal.5:22; Jn.13:35

Sincere agape love. No hypocrisy. Unselfish, self-giving, devoted. Only by the Holy Spirit.

Why is this type of love impossible for an unbeliever? Eph.2:1-3; IJn.3:18

An unbeliever is under God's wrath. Dead works, even if they look good outwardly.

What is our basic "filter" on things around us? vs.9b; 12:2; Prov.8:13; Phil.4:8; Ps.1

It is to hate evil and cling to what is good. This is a fundamental self discipline. It's work!

How are we to relate to other believers? vs.9c Jn.13:35; IThess.4:9; IJn.2:9-11

Partly automatic for believers, partly disciplined. Genuine honor, respect for others.

What is to be our attitude toward service to the Lord? vs.11; 1:1; Eph.5:15-21

It's too soon to quit! Work for the Lord while you still have opportunity. Not optional!

What's our attitude toward trials/tribulations? vs.12 James 1:2

1. joyful in hope (this too will end) 2. patient (under trial) 3. faithful in prayer.

How are we to get involved with God's people who have needs? vs.13 Gal.6:10

Share (physical/emotional/spiritual) and practice hospitality. Others needs before ours.

Our responsibility to all people...Rom.12:14-21

How are we to react to personal persecution? vs.14; IPet.4:15-16; IPet.2:21-23

First, be sure it's undeserved. Mimic Christ. Then bless them and no cursing! See verse 19.

How are we to respond to the emotions of all those around us? vs.15; Lu.19:41-44

Rejoice or sorrow with them. Sometimes we do just the opposite! Spiritual sensitivity.

What is to be our attitude towards all men? vs.16, 18 James 2:2-5

Don't initiate strife. No conceit, no pride, no "caste" system, spoken or implied.

What about "getting even"? What is God's will in this? vs.17-19a IPet.2:23

Flee from that! It's not our business to get retribution. Follow Christ's example in this.

Does that mean there is no "settling up"? vs.19b-20 Nahum 1:2

There will be avenging, but it is God's work, not ours. We treat enemies like our friends!

And in this world of "getting even", "I have my rights", etc, what's the command? vs.21

Don't let the evil (mind set) overcome you. Renew your mind. Obey the Lord...