

The Sacrifice is Not a Ritual

There is no way that this will not be a ritual if we do not give Him our will. We are hostile to God, we make ourselves an enemy of God, if we work or do anything in the flesh — without His grace. We are going to offer up, yield, our bodies to Him as a living sacrifice. That means we give our whole being to Him — our minds, our bodies, our wills, our emotions, our intellect — everything about us we offer up to Him. Therefore, when it comes to doing His will, we are ready to do His will because that is how we present our bodies.

For instance, this morning we came here and presented our bodies to Him as a living sacrifice; we gave ourselves to Him as an act of our will; we gave ourselves up to Him to serve Him. So then, if anyone did not want to do what he was supposed to do, then we know that he just went through a ritual this morning and he is an enemy of God. Rom 8:7 says that you make yourself an enemy of God. We cannot work in the flesh if we give our bodies as a living sacrifice. We present ourselves to Him as an offering to be used by Him in service, in servanthood.

So it is the blessing or the curse — how we actually give our bodies as a living sacrifice. The sacrifice is a test as to whether or not we can do it morning and evening without it becoming something we just do, a form that we follow. It is the way that our Father tests us to see who is His and who is not His. We can see it if we give ourselves to Him to do His will, because if we do, then we can walk in the works that are foreordained for us to walk in by His Spirit, being led by His Spirit, accomplishing His purpose. What we do is accomplishing His purpose because we are walking in those good works that He has prepared for us to walk in. So we have to be led by the Spirit to do that and only those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. And so therefore we have to give our bodies as a living sacrifice to do that. You cannot do it any other way.

So if we really desire fellowship with Him, communion, then let's give our bodies as a living sacrifice. Doing that terminates the flesh. It gets rid of everything that is hostile toward

one another. So that means we love one another, we have peace with one another, and we submit to one another. Submission ends the argument.

Those who are faithful are flexible. We are not rigid; we yield, we submit, we forbear. We are not like an iron pot with a clay pot. Iron pots are so strong, always right, not gentle, not loving, not kind. And they go around breaking all the clay pots — they cannot work together because all the weak ones are not able to join in to the work. (This is not talking about rebellion here. Certainly there is no room for rebellion in the Body, or direct disobedience. And there is no room for a person to be obstinately lazy.)

Love while you have the opportunity.