

WHAT TRUE DEVOTION INVOLVES

Rom 12:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The "reasonable" (rational, intelligent, service based on a knowledge of God's will) is the service which expresses the Christian's true devotion to God.
- B. In this context Paul shows several marks of such devotion to God.
- C. We must try to possess this kind of devotion to God. Therefore, we need to notice these marks of true devotion in order that we may be pleasing to Him

DISCUSSION:

I. SELF SACRIFICE (V.1)

- A. Note the contrast with the Gentile's abuse of their bodies
 - 1. God gave them up to uncleanness Rom 1:24
 - 2. There must be restraint 1Cor 6:12,19,20
- B. Contrasted with Jewish animal sacrifices
 - 1. Under Old Law an animal was put to death as a sacrifice for sin
 - 2. Under Christ the sacrifice is "living" our lives become a perpetual sacrifice.
 - 3. Animal sacrifice had to be holy, with blemish
 - 4. So must our lives be holy, dedicated to God. (Note the comment made in Jas 3:10,11
- C. Involves a complete surrender of self
 - 1. Macedonians first gave themselves 2Cor 8:5
 - 2. Paul said, "I seek not yours, but YOU" 2Cor 12:14
 - 3. Self is the altar upon which every acceptable Sacrifice to God is made

II. SELF ALTERATION (V. 2)

- A. Negatively "Be not conformed"
 - 1. "Conformed" = to fashion or shape one thing like another
 - 2. Not fashioned or shaped like the world
 - 3. "Love not the world" 1Jhn 2:15-17
- B. Positively "Be ye transformed"
 - 1. "Transformed" = to undergo a complete change
 - 2. The spiritual metamorphosis essential to newness of life Rom 6:4; 2Cor 5:17
 - 3. The Christian is different (from what he was; from the world. etc)
- C. Man's part in this transformation involves his heart and will. God's part involves removing the guilt of sin Through Christ's blood

III. SELF EXAMINATION (V.3)

- A. Proper evaluation of self is essential to growth 2Cor 13:5; 2Cor 10:12, 18
 - 1. Over-evaluation harmful (v.3 not to think more highly than we ought to think)
 - 2. Under-evaluation harmful ("good for nothing" concept; no self-esteem) 1Cor 12:14,15
- B. Evaluate by right standard (v. 3)
 - 1. "Measure of faith" (i.e., the faith as a measuring instrument.)
 - 2. Standard is God's word Jhn 12:48
 - 3. Look into mirror of God's word Jas 1:23-25
 - 4. Wrong standard (self & others) 2Cor 10:12

IV. SELF INVOLVEMENT (V. 4-8)

- A. Something for all to do
 - 1. Every member of the body must function in keeping with their talents and resources Eph 4:16
 - 2. Everyone has the ability to work for the Lord Matt 25:14-30
- B. We must be doers and not hearers only Jas 1:22; Matt 7:24-27

CONCLUSION:

- A. The individual that is truly devoted to the Lord will render the service that is expected of them in a sacrificial way, examining themselves and making the necessary alterations to conform their lives to the standard which God has set for his children.
- B. We must ask ourselves: Am I truly devoted to God in light of these marks of true devotion?