

A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12.1-2

I appeal to you **therefore**, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Therefore pivotal points:

Sin/Condemnation: Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Salvation/Justification: Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Sanctification/Dedication: Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Sovereignty/Vindication: Rom 9:18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Service/Application: Rom 12:1 I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies
as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.

Motivation
for
believers
spiritual
worship

Do not be conformed to this world,
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Method
required
for
spiritual
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Pattern
for
Christian
living.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

We must translate **our learning into living** and show by our daily lives that we trust God and his Word.

Spiritual Information should translate to Christian behavioral transformation.

The key idea in this section is relationships.

If we have a right relationship to God, we will have a right relationship to the people who are a part of our lives.

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar”
(1 John 4:20)

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by the mercies of God

Rom 11:30-32 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now **obtained mercy** through their disobedience, (31) even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the **mercy shown** you they also may obtain mercy. Rom 11:32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have **mercy on all**.

Rom 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ...(36) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Mercies of God in Romans, in Christ

We obtained mercy- Rom 11.32

His Grace and Love – We are beloved of God. 1.7

His kindness saved us . 11.22,2.4

His forgiveness and kindness to us in Christ – 3.25, 4-7-8

His reconciliation through Christ – 5.10

Justification in Christ – 2.13, 3.4 ~ and on

Conformation to the image of His son – 8.29

Glorification – 8.30 eternal life 5.21

Resurrection of our bodies – 8.11

Divine sonship – 8.14-17

Faith , Holy Spirit, hope, glory and honor and His sovereign mercy. - Various verses.

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Present our bodies... Why?

There are multiple reasons.

1Co 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**

1Co 3:16-17 Do you not know that **you are God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (17) If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

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Present our bodies... Why?

Rom 6:13 **Do not present** your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, **but present** yourselves to God **as those who have been brought from death to life,** and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Rom 6:19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.** [This is Rom 12.2 in action]

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as a living sacrifice:

Col 3:5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you:
sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and
covetousness, which is idolatry.

Rom 6:11 So you also must **consider yourselves dead to
sin** and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would
come after me, **let him deny himself** and take up his cross
and follow me.

What is worship?

“... Worship means to **bow down**. It means to **prostrate oneself**. It means to **render due honor, homage, and service**. It is simply to acknowledge somebody as **superior**, to acknowledge someone **as worthy of reverence**, worthy of esteem, worthy of honor, **worthy of homage** and thus to bow before that person. **It is giving to God the respect He deserves..** That’s worship – giving to God the respect He deserves.”

- **John MacArthur**

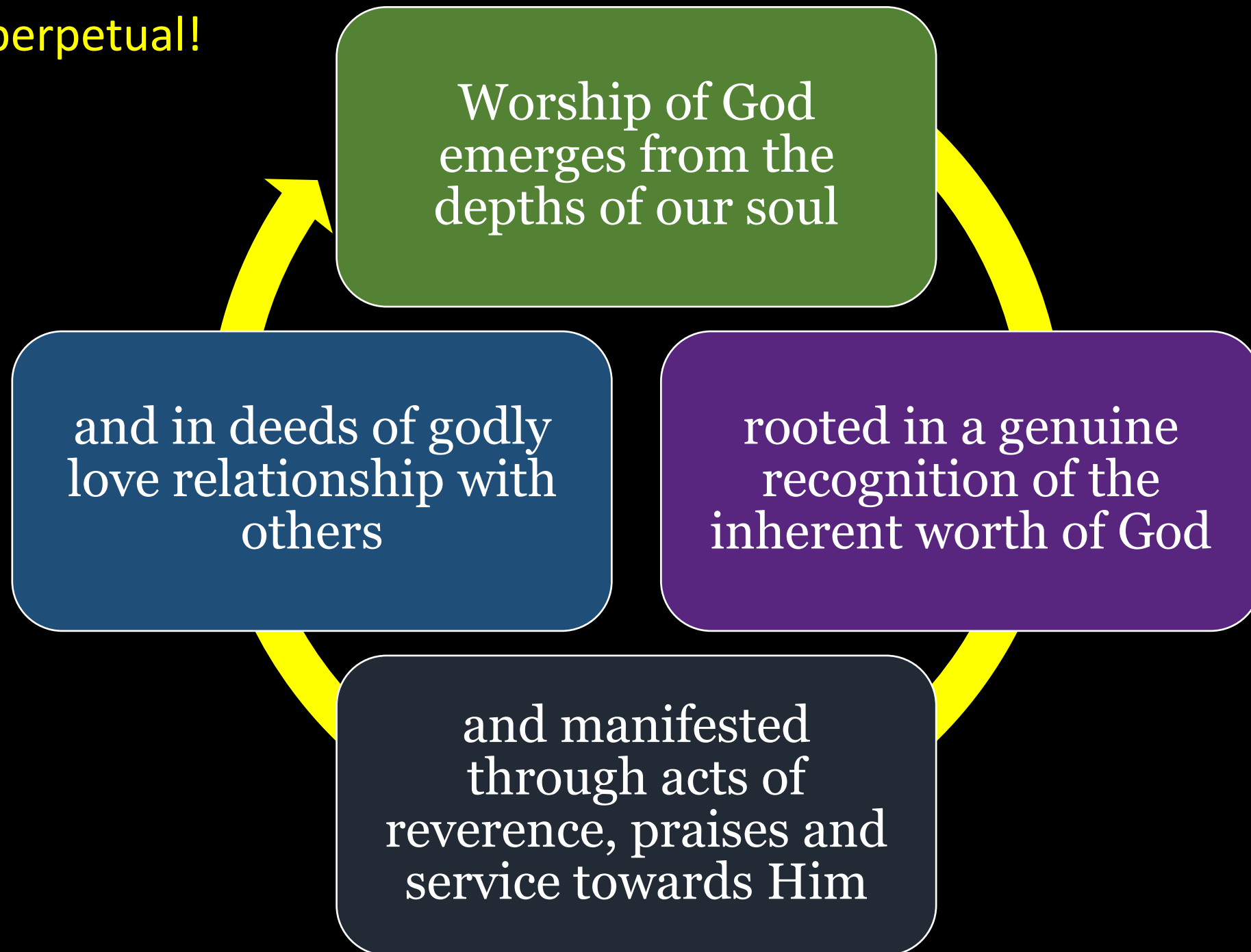
What is worship?

Worship of God emerges from the depths of our soul, rooted in a genuine recognition of inherent worth of Him and manifested through acts of reverence, praise and service towards Him and in deeds of godly love relationship with others

What is worship?

Heb 13:15-16 Therefore by Him let us continually offer **the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to **do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**

Worship is perpetual!



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Rom 12.2 (J. B Philips)

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

Martin Luther said, “You cannot keep birds from flying over your head ...”



“... but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.”



You can't keep the Devil from suggesting evil or sinful thoughts at times based on our spiritual maturity, but you can choose not to dwell or act on them.

2Co 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, [ESV]

2Co 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, [NKJV]

"For believers,
all our days and
actions are part
of an unceasing
act of worship."

1 Cor 10.31, Col
3.17, 23

Rom 12.1-2
Living a successful
Christian life of
perpetual worship

Offer our life;
pure, holy and
acceptable continually
as acts of worship

DO NOT
Be conformed to the
World system

Test every thought and
act against the word of
God,
which is His will

BE TRANSFORMED
In our thinking by
renewing of our
mind

Now to him who is able to strengthen you ...
to bring about the obedience of faith—
to the only wise God be glory forevermore
through Jesus Christ! Amen.

(Rom 16.25-27)