

Intro.

- A. Relationships = important in every single thing we do in life, *for none of us lives to himself, & no one dies to himself*, **Rom. 14:7** **c. 1 Cor. 12:12-14**
1. In the church, we find relationships w/n a congregation & between sis. congregations very important.
 2. Also true in physical relationships – family, work, school.....camp.
 3. Need to strive to reach gtest. potential good in each of these relationships.
 4. However, unless our relationship to God is as it should be, other relations \geq develop full potential.
- B. **Text**, Paul makes an earnest plea. *I beseech you...* = a gentle, but firm persuasive plea.
1. **Rom. 6:13** as Paul explained the **demands** of the Gospel for living righteously, he instructed Roman Christians to *present their bodies to God, as instrument of righteousness, making sure to avoid yielding themselves to serve as instruments of unrighteousness to sin.*
 2. He had taught them about **Righteousness, Faith, Baptism, Life in Christ, Freedom f/ the Law, Freedom f/ sin & the need for the Gospel as the only Hope for Heavenly Habitation.** – “therefore”
 3. *the mercies of God* = the redemptive work God accomplished thru Christ, & this = man’s motive ...
 4. Paul’s plea to present our bodies a living sacrifice suggest a choice that we **must** make.
 - a. **Rom. 6:16**
 - b. **Mt. 6:24**

Discuss.**I. THE PRESENTATION -**

- A. An offering – a sacrifice.
1. The concept of sacrifice has always been part of following the Lord. (Able, Noah, Elijah – **1 Kgs. 18:23f**)
 2. The nature of that which is sacrificed is highly significant.
 - a. pure & w/o blemish, **Ex. 12:5** Passover lamb; **Lev. 1:3**, bull on day of Atonement; **3:1** – peace offering..... **44 X’s** thruout O. T. God required that sacrifices offered be pure.
 - b. In N. T. Peter reminds of the purity of Christ’s blood as He was sacrificed for our sins, **1 Pet. 1:19**
 - c. Jesus will present a glorious church, w/o spot or wrinkle (**Eph. 5:27**), for He cannot be joined to that which is unholy, c. **2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1**
- B. This presentation → *a Living Sacrifice.*
1. *Sacrifice* = that which is brought to God & placed at His disposal.
 - a. This = a *complete* sacrifice, presenting **all** of ourselves to God.
 - b. **1 Cor. 3:17 & 6:19-20** - bodies = *temple of God’s Holy Spirit* (c. **Col. 3:16; 1:27** Christ = *hope of g*)
 - c. (c. **Ac. 5:1-9** tells us of danger of presenting sacrifice to God, but not being honest about just how much sacrifice we have made. Also, **Mal. 3:8**)
 - 2.
- C.

II. T

- A.
- 1.
 2.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- B.
1.
 - a.
 - b.
 2.
 - a.
 - b.

- c.
- 3.

III. C

- A.
 - 1.
 - a.
 - b.
 - 2.

- B.
 - 1.
 - a.
 - b.

- 2.
 - a.
 - b.
- 3.
 - a.
 - b.

Concl.

- A.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- B.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

***Suggested Songs:* Take My Life & Let It Be
Purer In Heart
I Surrender All**