

Q U E S T I O N S A B O U T

Sacrifices

1. When you think of a sacrifice, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? _____
2. Have you ever thought of **YOURSELF** as a sacrifice? ____ This is what Paul calls us. Read Romans 12:1 and explain what you think Paul is saying in this verse. _____

3. Paul does more than simply tell us to be a living sacrifice. He also tells us what that's all about – how we should live our lives if we are living sacrifices. Read each passage and briefly explain what living sacrifices do. Then, be honest with yourself and mark whether or not this is something that you do.

Read Romans 12:2 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 12:6 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 12:9 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 12:11 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 12:16 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 12:17-21 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 13:1-7 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 13:8-10 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

Read Romans 13:11-14 If I'm a living sacrifice, I should _____
 Is this easy? ____ Are you doing this? ____

4. It's not always easy to live this way, especially when others are involved in this evil conduct and encourage us to do the same. Look back at Romans 12:1. Paul urges us to be living sacrifices because of the mercies of God. Explain what this means and how it motivates us to be sacrifices.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Instructions: Go through each question one by one. First, have the students write down their answer. Then, discuss their answers with the entire group.

- Question 1: Just throw this question out and see what kind of feedback you get. Students might mention Old Testament sacrifices, soldiers who die for the country, or something they personally had to give up.
- Question 2: Introduce this idea of disciples being living sacrifices to God. Ask the students to explain what this means to them. How are we to be a living sacrifice to God? Emphasize that our lives should be completely devoted to God, to God's will, to God's work. You might use Paul as an example (Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:21).
- Question 3: This is the core of our exercise. Read each passage aloud. Have the students briefly write down what they think this passage is saying then discuss their answers as a group. Talk about whether or not this is something that is difficult to do, and why it is difficult to do. Finally, have each student indicate whether or not this is something they are doing in their life.

Romans 12:2	Discuss what it means not to be conformed to this world.
Romans 12:6	Discuss how we ought to use our gifts to serve God.
Romans 12:9	Discuss how we ought to abhor evil.
Romans 12:11	Discuss how we ought to be on fire for the Lord, to serve Him passionately.
Romans 12:16	Discuss how we ought to associate with the lowly.
Romans 12:17-21	Discuss how we ought to be kind to our enemies.
Romans 13:1-7	Discuss how we ought to submit to government and honor the king.
Romans 13:8-10	Discuss how we ought to love each other; never harm each other.
Romans 13:11-14	Discuss how we ought to refrain from drinking and sexual immorality.

- Question 4: Close the session by giving your students an incentive to do the sometimes difficult things required in these verses. Have them read Romans 12:1 again and do their best to explain what Paul means when he bases his appeal on "the mercies of God."

As you talk this over with the group, explain that the mercies of God refers to all that Paul has said up to this point in the book about what God has done to provide for our salvation. God loved us. God sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins. Because of what God has done for us, we should feel this natural impulse to give ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice.