



## MAKING GOD SMILE "By Living Sacrificially" Romans 12:1-2

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The concluding practical teachings of the Epistle to the Romans are based on an exhortation to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices." Whatever this means we can be sure that it results in a lifestyle that is "pleasing to God." Making God smile is reason enough to explore it!

### I. What Is It that Is So Pleasing to God?

- A. The place of sacrifice in Christian experience.
  - 1. The emphasis on sacrifice in the O.T.
    - a. Creatures claiming protection.
    - b. Sinners craving forgiveness.
  - 2. The sacrifice of Christ accomplishing both for humanity.
  - 3. The sacrifice of the Christian in light of Christ's accomplishment.
    - a. Not an attempt to accomplish what He has accomplished.
    - b. But a response to what He has done on our behalf.
- B. The particulars of sacrifice in Christian experience.
  - 1. The emphasis on the "body." cf. Romans 6:13
    - a. Costly denial.
    - b. Committed behavior.
    - c. "Living."
    - d. "Holy."
    - e. "Pleasing."
  - 2. The emphasis on the "world."
    - a. An age that demands conforming.
    - b. An attitude that rejects it.
  - 3. The emphasis on the "mind."
    - a. Its need for "renewal." See Ephesians 4:23
    - b. Its transformation through renewal.

### II. Why Is this So Pleasing to God?

- A. Because it is an appropriate response "in view of God's mercy."
- B. Because it is a valid expression of "spiritual worship."
  - 1. "Latreian" — the service of the priests.
  - 2. "Logikon" — that which is reasonable, spiritual, genuine.
- C. Because it leads to a discovery and implementation of "God's will."

**Points to Ponder:** Do I want to make God smile? Do I know how to do it? Will I?