

“Present Your Bodies”
Romans 12:1

Introduction: In the context of verse one, Paul is speaking to the Roman believers in such a way as to exhort them to fulfill a reasonable service. What was the logical labor that they were to perform? It was to present their bodies for the Master’s use. They were to take their lives out of their hands, and place them in the hands of the Lord. When a believer is converted, they must realize that they are not their own any more to do as they please. There must be a sacrifice on our part as we render our lives for the service of God. This is seen in several passages in the Word of God. We see:

1. The Ownership of Our Bodies I Corinthians 6:19- *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”*
2. The Obedience of Our Bodies Romans 6:13- *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*
3. The Opportunities of Our Bodies Romans 14:7- *“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”*
4. The Obligation of Our Bodies II Corinthians 5:15- *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*
 - a. To Manifest God I Corinthians 6:20- *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*
 - b. To Magnify God Philippians 1:20- *“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.”*

Body: It is this last thought, magnifying God in our body, which expresses the point of presenting our bodies. Without this presentation, there will be no magnification. When we magnify God, he gets bigger and we get smaller. We make much of Jesus when we totally crucify self and allow the Lord to be seen through our lives. However, how do we present our bodies so that it would magnify the Lord? Paul further describes how we present our bodies. Notice the three elements involved in this self-presentation. Keep in mind that this presentation is a once and for all act, such as marriage. These elements are:

- I. A Sacrificial Presentation- *“a living sacrifice”*
 - A. The Definition of a Sacrifice
 1. sacrifice (Strong’s)- “to slay, kill”
 2. sacrifice (Webster’s)- “To offer to God in homage or worship, by killing and consuming, as victims on an altar; to immolate, either as an atonement for sin, or to procure favor, or to express thankfulness; To devote with loss”

3. “There are two ‘living sacrifices’ in the Bible and they help us understand what this really means. The first is Isaac (Gen. 22); the second is our Lord Jesus Christ. Isaac willingly put himself on the altar and would have died in obedience to God’s will, but the Lord sent a ram to take his place. Isaac ‘died’ just the same—he died to self and willingly yielded himself to the will of God. When he got off that altar, Isaac was a ‘living sacrifice’ to the glory of God.” (Wiersbe)
4. “Of course, our Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect illustration of a ‘living sacrifice,’ because He actually died as a sacrifice, in obedience to His Father’s will. But He arose again. And today He is in heaven as a ‘living sacrifice,’ bearing in His body the wounds of Calvary. He is our High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16) and our Advocate (1 John 2:1) before the throne of God.” (Wiersbe)

B. The Display of a Sacrifice

1. The Life of William Carey (This Day in Baptist History, pg. 143)
2. The Life of Abraham Marshall (This Day in Baptist History, pg. 165)
3. The Life of Jabez Swan (The Baptist Encyclopedia, pgs. 1124-1125)
4. The Life of James B. Taylor (The Baptist Encyclopedia, pgs. 1134-1135)
5. The Life of Samuel Harris (A History of the Pittsylvania Baptist Association, pg. 39)
6. The Life of J. William Jones (The Baptist Encyclopedia, pg. 617-618)
7. The Life of Jeremiah Bell Jeter (The Baptist Encyclopedia, pg. 600-601)
8. The Life of Charles H. Spurgeon (The Baptist Encyclopedia, pgs. 1092-1095)
9. The Life of David Brainerd (Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, 2031, 4526, 4534, 5859, 5862)
10. The Life of Jonathan Edwards (Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, 5074)

II. A Spiritual Presentation- “*holy*”

A. The Meaning of Holy

1. holy (Strong’s)- “most holy thing”
2. holy (Webster’s)- “Properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense. Hence, pure in heart, temper or dispositions; free from sin and sinful affections. Hallowed; consecrated or set apart to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God”

B. The Message of Holy

1. The Desire for Holiness Ephesians 1:4- “*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love*”
2. The Demand for Holiness I Peter 1:16- “*Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*”

3. The Duty of Holiness II Peter 3:11- *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness”*

III. A Satisfactory Presentation- *“acceptable unto God”*

- A. An Acceptable Sanctification Romans 15:16- *“That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.”*
- B. An Acceptable Speech Psalm 19:14- *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*
- C. An Acceptable Sending Philippians 4:18- *“But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.”*
- D. An Acceptable Supplication I Timothy 2:3- *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour”*
- E. An Acceptable Suffering I Peter 2:20- *“For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.”*

Conclusion: It is when we fulfill these three elements in our lives that we have presented our bodies to the Lord. Paul further states that when we do this that it is our reasonable service. When we consider how the Lord laid down His life for us, we must realize that it should be logical for us to lay our lives down for His service. This is what Paul titled *“your reasonable service”*. The presentation of our bodies is only right when we consider Calvary and the salvation the Lord gave us freely.