

Series: Pursuing Devotion
Mess: A Devoted Sacrifice
Romans 12:1-4 (AM 11/12/17)

Christ's Atonement through the Cross is the most stunning example of sacrifice in all human history. The early Church understood that and did not shrink from God's call for sacrifice. Most were persecuted for their faith and many were martyred. This did not hinder the growth of Christianity but rather enabled it. Paul, writing to the Roman Church, called them to be *living sacrifices*, totally committed to Christ, His Church, and His Cause. Today, in the contemporary Church, we have diluted this concept. Tragically, many think it's a sacrifice to come back on Sunday nights! No wonder we're witnessing the dramatic decline of Christianity and its influence. Isn't it time to move from a tame and convenient faith to a radical transforming faith that changes us and the world that we live in? The apostle Paul enumerates the steps that lead to a *Devoted Sacrifice* that will be *acceptable to God and our reasonable service*.

1st A Divine Challenge (1) *"I urge you...present your bodies a living sacrifice"*

- A radical sacrifice and reasonable service

2nd A Deliberate Course (2) *"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind"*

- Daily resist the world and renew our walk

3rd A Dedicated Commitment (3) *"God's dealt to each...a measure of faith"*

- Be reasonable about our position and rational about our pursuit

4th A Designed Connection (4) *"Members do not have the same function..."*

- A residence to promote and a role to play

5th A Devoted Community (5) *"So we being many are one Body..."*

- A rich diversity and a real devotion

Application to our life: *Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice* is the call for Devoted – Challenge 200. When everyone earnestly asks the Father what a sacrifice looks like for their family all our goals are within reach. *Paul reminds us that the ultimate sacrifice God demands is the lives of His Children.* His Son's sacrifice is what compels us to offer ours. When we've given God our lives, the Availability, Ability, and Assets will naturally follow!