



Pt 1- **Being Authentic** “Offering ourselves fully to God.”

Romans 12:1 ^(niv) *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

Romans 12:1 ^(msg) *So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.*

When sacrificing an animal according to God's law, a priest would kill the animal, cut it into pieces, and place it on the altar. **Sacrifice was important, but even in the Old Testament God made it clear that obedience from the heart was much more important.**

1 Samuel 15:22 ^(niv) *But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

1. A living sacrifice is a daily choice of the heart

God wants us to offer ourselves, not animals, as living sacrifices – daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him, putting all our energy and resources at his disposal and trusting Him to guide us.

We offer ourselves out of an attitude of gratitude, because God gave Jesus as a sacrifice for us so we can be made friends again with God.

Being a living sacrifice means we don't die once, but every day, and in every way!

God has good, pleasing and perfect plans for us. He wants us to be changed people with new ways of thinking and living life in the way that please Him.

Because God wants only what is best for us, and gave us life in the first place - we should happily give ourselves as living sacrifices for His service.

2. A living sacrifice is all about obeying God in everything we do.

We please Jesus when we obey Him wholeheartedly.

What does it mean to obey Jesus wholeheartedly?

It means we obey Him without reservation and without hesitation.

True worship is obeying Jesus wholeheartedly in the following ways;

- Love

Deuteronomy 6:5 (niv) *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

Matthew 22:37 (nlt) *Jesus replied, ““You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”*

- Trust

Proverbs 3:5 (nlt) *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.*

- Seeking Him

Jeremiah 29:13 (niv) *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

- Repentance

Joel 2:12 (niv) *"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."*

- His Teachings

Psalms 119:2 (gw) *Blessed are those who obey His written instructions. They wholeheartedly search for Him.*

Psalms 119:34 (gw) *Help me understand so that I can follow your teachings. I will guard them with all my heart.*

Application

So... if you are a Christ follower, how authentic are you?

The Bible says we tend to do the opposite to what God wants us to do.

Romans 8:8 (njb) *Those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God.*

Being an authentic Christ follower we are to have the same attitude as David in;
Psalms 119:33 (tlb) *Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey.*

So how about it...

Are you authentic in your Christianity?

Or, are you a churchie?

