

Sacrifice & The Imitation of God

It is a word we often avoid, but we are to offer spiritual sacrifices

1Pe 2:5 ESV you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, **to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

OUR WHOLE SELF AS A LIVING SACRIFICE - The only legitimate response to the mercy of God

- Rom 12:1 ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

LOVE - The imitation of God - His love in giving himself up was the ultimate sacrifice and act of love

- Eph 5:1-2 ESV Therefore be **imitators of God**, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

PRAISE - the acknowledgement of His name

- Heb 13:15 ESV Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

DO GOOD & SHARE

- Heb 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GENEROSITY

- Php 4:18 ESV I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

GIVING OF YOURSELF FOR THE FAITH OF OTHERS

- Php 2:17 ESV Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
 - Paul was suffering in prison for the preaching of the gospel - literally being poured out

THE PRIESTLY SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL - the offering of those who are lost and who come to Christ

- Rom 15:16 ESV to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

SACRIFICE WILL COST YOU

1Ch 21:24 ESV But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will buy them for the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

SACRIFICE MEANS WE GIVE HIM OUR BEST

Mal 1:8 ESV When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.