



[Romans 12:1](#)

(1) I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service.

A Faithful Version

The reality of the New Testament's teaching is that becoming a true disciple of [Jesus Christ](#) obligates a person to a great deal of sacrifice—even to the point of becoming what the apostle Paul calls being “a living sacrifice.” The disciple of Christ is clearly the sacrifice. Why do the sanctified ones make these sacrifices since the price they pay for forgiveness is dedicated, obedient devotion to the leadership of Jesus Christ?

This price requires the sacrifice of every function of a Christian's body, mind, and spirit to the way of [God](#). It can be very costly. It may cost the Christian his employment because of work requirements on the [Sabbath](#). He may lose his family attachments because the family may not accept his beliefs. He may lose his general acceptance within a community for the same reason.

We commit to Christ for two primary reasons. The first is personal and somewhat self-centered: We want to be delivered from the burden of the death penalty, and we desire the awesome rewards God promises like everlasting life and, sharing eternity with our Creator and Savior. The second is generally slower to grow within us but proves far more critical in the end: We love God and desire the completion of His purpose in us. Through [baptism](#), we want the means to express that love for God and for others as He continues with His creative purposes, preparing us for active participation in His Family in the [Kingdom of God](#).

We should never let the encouraging [Romans 5:1-5](#) slip from our minds:

Therefore, having been justified by [faith](#), we have [peace](#) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in the [hope](#) of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

These verses, naming gifts God gives us upon our agreeing to the New Covenant, remain as a brief but constant reminder of how the New Covenant enables us. They inspire and empower our faith in ways no prior covenant, even with God, has. But the New Covenant does not erase God's laws, just the penalty we have incurred by breaking them. Even the [sacrificial laws involving animals](#), though

they no longer have to be physically made, remain part of the Word of God because we can learn so much from them. They deepen and broaden our understanding of the sacrifices we must make under the New Covenant to show love to both God and men.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Why Hebrews Was Written \(Part One\)](#)

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