

Keeping the Church Holy and Blameless (1)

- Ephesians 5:25-32 -

- A. What was the church like in the New Testament? There were liars (Ananias & Sapphira, _____), hypocrisy (Peter, _____), and Christians made a social meal out of a worship service (_____). There was a church proclaiming the gospel (_____), brethren "*abounding in love*" (**Phil 1**), and saints who were "*faithful until death*" in the midst of tribulation (**Rev 2**)
- B. The church at Corinth was exhorted to "*be _____ (unreproveable) in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (**1 Cor 1:4-6**).
- D. Consider God's design for the church and what part we have in keeping the body holy and blameless....

1. " _____ " (Romans 12:1)

- A. "*I _____ you...*"
- B. This plea is by "*the _____ of _____*"
- C. "*He that hath ears let him hear*" (**Rev 2 and 3**)...

2. From _____ In to _____ Up

- A. Think about how many animal sacrifices were being made in the first century prior to the beginning of the church...
- B. _____ speaks of these sacrifices, and one great demonstration of sacrifice of a body is in _____
- C. Jesus' body was offered as a sacrifice "*once for all*".
- D. Jesus said to his apostles, "*This is my body which is _____ for you*" (**Lk 22:19**). Jesus understood the idea "*present your bodies a living _____*"
- E. "Giving up" something is what we understand sacrifice to be - a "personal loss" we offer for a purpose.
- F. The difference in animal sacrifices and the one in **Rom 12:1** is that it is sacrificed not near a temple, but _____ says "*your _____ is a temple*"... Not a dead sacrifice, but....

3. A _____ Sacrifice

- A. This sacrifice occurs at each moment of each day, a personal surrender, a giving of our life, our existence, a worship we offer to God to glorify Him (**Jn 12:23-28**).
- B. We must understand this in terms of what God views as a sacrifice, not ours. As **Rom 8:36** says, "*For thy sake we are killed all the day _____ long*". Paul said "*I die daily*" in **1 Cor 15:31. 2 Cor 4:14,15**
- C. God is expecting each Christian to lay the totality of who we are on an altar of sacrifice. **Wherever we are - continually (2 Cor 4:11)**...
- D. What is the value of having a body, except it be employed by God and for God daily? Life is not taken but given to us (**Rom 8:12,13**)

4. A _____ Sacrifice

- A. The requirements of the O.T. sacrifice were animals without spot or blemish. As Christians, we need to offer ourselves wholly, all we have (**Matt 22:37**). Also holy, as set apart just for God. (**Ex 13:12**)
- B. SONG: "Take My Life and Let It Be, consecrated Lord for thee..."
- C. Listen to **Exodus 21:2-6**. This servant was not ashamed of whose he was. Let us not "cover up" the "hole" that we are devoted to God..

5. An ACCEPTABLE Sacrifice

- A. A HOLY and LIVING sacrifice pleases God, because it is the only kind He desires. Note what Jesus did (**Eph 5:1-2**) and what we can do (**Heb 13:15**)...
- B. A life sacrificed on the altar of His service is honored by Him like no other honor we will ever receive.