

=BODY OF JESUS=

Lesson 13

God Wants and Needs Your Body

INTRODUCTION: For the past several weeks we have been discussing the body of Christ. It is very interesting that His body was so important. Our bodies are likewise important. God needs our bodies, and He wants us to give them to Him. He wants us to care for them, keep them clean, and use them for His glory. The poem says, "God has no hands but our hands to do His work today; He has no feet but our feet to lead men to His way; He has no tongue but our tongues to tell them that Christ died; He has no help but our help to lead men to His side." The poem goes on, but the general theme is that God has no way to do His work apart from our dedicating our bodies to Him. The Scripture for this lesson is Romans 12:1, 2. Let us notice God's appeal to us to give our bodies to Him.

- I. IN ROMANS 12:1 NOTICE THE WORD "BESEECH." It means "to beg." God is begging us to give Him our bodies. Why would He go so far as to beg us or plead with us? He has no way to witness apart from our tongues. He has no way to help people apart from our hands. He has no way to tell people the story of salvation apart from our lips. Hence, He begs us to give Him our bodies. God wants our bodies. Oftentimes people say, "Let the Word do its work." The Word cannot do its work apart from dedicated bodies. The Ethiopian eunuch riding in the chariot was reading from Isaiah 53. Isaiah was the easiest book for him to read and understand about Jesus and the Gospel. Chapter 53 was the best chapter of Isaiah for him to read, and the portion that he read was the most important portion for him to read. Yet, when he was asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" he had to answer, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" Acts 8:30, 31. The Bible is a sword. A sword is of no use unless it is wielded by the hand of someone's body.
- II. IN ROMANS 12:1 NOTICE THE WORDS, "THEREFORE" AND "MERCIES." Why does God have a right to ask for our bodies? He uses the word "therefore," which means He is connecting it with something that has gone before. For eleven chapters He has talked about the great doctrines of the faith. He has talked about adoption, justification, glorification, and all the other wonderful things that God has done for us. Because of that He says, "Therefore..." Because of these "mercies" we ought to give our bodies to God. It is the least we can do in the light of all He has done for us.
- III. IN ROMANS 12:1 NOTICE THE WORD "PRESENT." God wants us to give Him our bodies. The word means "yield" or "give up." God will not force us to give Him our bodies. They are our "presents" to Him. They belong to Him. He reminds us in I Corinthians 6:19, 20 that we are bought with a price and our bodies are not our own. However, we either steal our bodies from Him or present them to Him.
- IV. IN ROMANS 12:1 NOTICE THE WORDS, "A LIVING SACRIFICE." This is in contrast to the dead sacrifices of the Old Testament. The Jew brought his lamb and presented it on the altar. Now God says because Jesus has become His satisfactory Lamb to fulfill all sacrifices, He does not want a dead sacrifice any more; He wants a living sacrifice. He wants us to sacrifice our lives in living for Him. It is not enough to die for Christ; God wants people to live for Christ.
- V. IN ROMANS 12:1 NOTICE THE WORD "HOLY." God wants "holy" bodies. (Teachers of young people, teach your pupils their bodies should be holy, clean, pure, and completely given to God. Stress the importance of **not** being physically promiscuous. Emphasize the dangers of petting, etc.)
- VI. NOTICE THE WORD "ACCEPTABLE" IN ROMANS 12:1. This goes back to the old sacrifices. Not just any lamb was acceptable to God, only a lamb without blemish! The Passover lamb was chosen on the tenth day of the first month of the year, but it was kept for four days to be examined to be sure that it was without blemish. God wants our best! Nothing will be acceptable unto Him unless it is a "holy sacrifice." God does not want half or a part; He wants us all, and He wants us pure. This is an "acceptable" sacrifice to Him.
- VII. IN ROMANS 12:1 NOTICE THE WORD "REASONABLE." The word "reasonable" here means "spiritual." In other words, the giving of our bodies to God is our spiritual service. Oftentimes people separate the spiritual from the physical. God does not do so. The physical is spiritual. People oftentimes

say, “Don’t get the flesh into the Lord’s work. Be spiritual.” God says getting the flesh into the Lord’s work is spiritual. He wants our bodies; He wants our flesh. Taking care of the body is spiritual. Giving the body to God is spiritual. Bathing is spiritual. Exercising is spiritual. Eating the proper food is spiritual.

- VIII. IN ROMANS 12:2 NOTICE THE WORD “CONFORMED.” The word means “fashioned.” We are not to be fashioned after this world. Actually, it implies “the fitting of a dress or garment on a mannequin.” We are not to make our garments or pattern our garments on the mannequin of the world. Our fashions, our hair, our dress, and the care of our bodies in general are not to be worldly, but spiritual. Notice the word “world.” This also means “age” or “era.” The Christian is not to fashion himself after the era in which he lives, but after God’s will. Eras change, but God’s will, purposes, and convictions never change.
- IX. IN ROMANS 12:2 NOTICE THE WORDS, “RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.” This is in the linear tense. We are to renew our minds constantly. What does this mean? We are to give our bodies constantly to Jesus Christ, not once, but regularly. Paul said that he buffeted his body every day. Actually, he meant that he “gave himself a black eye” every day. He beat himself each day. Day after day, he gave his body to God.
- X. IN ROMANS 12:2 NOTICE THE WORDS, “THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD.” What one does with his body enables him to do or not to do God’s will. What one does with his body often forfeits his right to do the perfect will of God, and he has to be satisfied with the “acceptable” will of God. One cannot know the will of God for his life until he has given his body as a living sacrifice.