



**The Cause**

community church

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## **“Living Sacrifices”**

### **Gabbing about Life (Icebreaker)**

What is the biggest sacrifice you have ever made? (A sacrifice is giving up something valuable or important for somebody or something else considered to be of more value or importance.)

### **Reading from the Book of Life (the Bible)**

Romans 12:1-8

### **Grappling with Life’s Issues (Questions)**

When I read Romans 12:1-2 it is very easy to personalize the verse and turn it into a prayer for my life that goes something like this: “Lord, may I be a living sacrifice for you.” This is a great prayer and a powerful one which I would encourage you to pray. But I want you to see this passage through different lenses for just a moment.

First, let’s look at the context of this verse – what does Paul write about in Romans 11 and Romans 12:9-21? When Paul writes about living sacrifices he emphasizes not the personal aspect of it, but the communal aspect. Romans 12:1-8 is an important section in Romans as it begins the transition into the practical application, the pastoral imperatives of how to live as a community. It is no coincidence that right after Paul talks about offering yourself as a living sacrifice that he puts it in context of practical application to a body of believers.

In the context of community, what does it mean to be a living sacrifice (read 12:9-21 for examples)? A living sacrifice is a person who sincerely loves others, not just those who love him/her. A living sacrifice is a person who uses his/her abilities to build up the body.

Final Thought: We have different gifts and different functions. Don’t try to do everything on your own because you will get overworked and rob others of their opportunity to serve. We need everyone’s effort to be what God calls The Cause to be.

### **Praying through Life’s Challenges**

Join together in praying that each member might be a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

*“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world...”*  
*John 18:37 (NKJV)*

