

Romans chapters 1-11 is considered Paul's doctrinal section of the letter. Chapter 12-16 is referred to as the practical section. Labeling chapters 12-16 as "practical" is not to say that doctrine is impractical... **far from it!**

If we are going to KNOW God and WALK with God, we must be taught the fundamental truths relating to His person and will for His Children. Doctrine is the foundational truth that informs one's Christian living.

However, knowing/believing truth is not the be-all / end-all, for Bible doctrine teaches us that what we come to know about God and His ways are to be lived out in our everyday existence.

**Truth Point #1:** The truths of Scripture are designed to move from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

That's why in Paul's inspired writings you find him addressing **doctrine (what is true) first**, because one cannot \_\_\_\_\_ in their heart, nor \_\_\_\_\_ in their daily living what is true, until truth is first **clearly presented** to them.

That's what Paul is doing in chapters 1-11, he systematically lays out Christian Doctrine. Romans 11:36 is the capstone of the section declaring that all **glory belongs to God** who is the creator of all things.

## **The Appeal – Christ-followers**

The word "**brothers**" is universally understood to mean "brothers in the faith", so Paul is addressing believers. Although our English translations make it seem like he is only addressing male believers, the word **adelphos**, which is translated "brothers" is better understood to address **siblings**, male or female, in God's family.

The word "**appeal**" is more than making a request. It is literally to beg, to plead with utmost importance and urgency. So, what Paul writes here is of the **highest importance** to believers and deserves **undistracted attention**.

## The Focus – Our Bodies

The urgent call to every Christian is to ... **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God**.... Why our BODIES and not our SOUL, or SPIRIT?

If you are born-again, like Jesus speaks about in John 3:3, then your **SOUL**, the real you, is already His. It is the part of your person that God redeemed by the Blood of Christ. What do I mean by part of your person?

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** tells us that God created humanity as a SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY. The relevance goes back to God's warning Adam, that if he chose to sin by eating the forbidden fruit, he would die.

God wasn't talking about his SOUL, it never dies. The BODY does die but for Adam that took over 900 years to occur. However, there was an immediate death when Adam sinned. His SPIRIT, that part connecting humanity to God, died in the sense of being cut off from its connection with God and went dormant. The human SPIRIT remains in every person, but until a person comes to faith in Christ, their spirit is dormant, cut off from God.

When salvation occurs the **SOUL**, the real me, is redeemed from sin's curse, and our **SPIRIT** that was dormant comes to life being connected to God through the indwelling presence and power of God's Holy Spirit.

The reason Paul focuses on the BODY in this context is because as a Christian, your SOUL and SPIRIT already belong to God. But the BODY remains under your authority, and you can PRESENT or WITHOLD it from God.

In part, growing in **sanctification**, conformity to the image of Christ, is to learn to take **spiritual authority** over your body, presenting it willingly to God for His glory and purpose. **See 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**. Paul instructs the Christians of Corinth about the importance of governing over their bodies, not allowing them to be used for sinful pleasures, but for God's glory.

**Truth Point #2:** Becoming a Christian does not take away the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body. It will always desire what pleases it, without regard to what pleases God. This is where the idea of “living sacrifice” comes into play.

My redeemed self is called to **exercise** \_\_\_\_\_ **authority** over my BODY, \_\_\_\_\_ it’s carnal desires presenting it to God for His glory and purpose. **See Romans 6:12-13.**

**The Motivation – God’s Mercies**

The motivation for presenting my BODY as a living sacrifice unto God is found in the innumerable **MERCIES** poured out on those whom God redeems to Himself. Throughout **Romans 1-11** Paul laid out mercy after mercy bestowed by God on those He saves.

**Love:** **1:7:** our calling to be saints is because of God’s love; **5:5:** God’s love is poured into our hearts; **5:8:** God demonstrated His love through Christ’s death for us; **8:37:** more than conquerors through His love.

**Grace:** **3:24:** justified by His grace; **5:15:** free gift of grace through Christ; **5:20:** grace abounds over sin; **6:15:** not under law but grace.

**Holy Spirit:** **8:2:** set you free in Christ Jesus; **8:9:** grace and peace; **8:10:** life; **8:11:** resurrection from the dead.

**Peace:** **5:1:** peace with God.

**Faith:** **3:25:** forgiveness of sin by faith; **3:27-28:** justification by faith; **4:5:** faith is counted as righteousness.

For the sake of brevity, the following represents other mercies Paul identifies in Romans chapters 1-11: comfort, power, hope, God’s patience, kindness, share in His glory and righteousness, forgiveness, reconciliation, justification, security, eternal life, freedom, resurrection, intercession by Holy Spirit.

**Truth Point #3:** The innumerable, indescribable, incomparable mercies of God serve as the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Christian to present their body a living sacrifice to Him. It is the only \_\_\_\_\_ one can make for all God has and will do in the life of a redeemed one.

**The Point – Spiritual Worship**

**Truth Point #4:** The greatest act of worship one can offer to God is to \_\_\_\_\_... *my wants, my desires, my agenda...* to embrace \_\_\_\_\_ for me as His child.

I become a living sacrifice when I \_\_\_\_\_ selfish ambition, presenting myself to God to be His \_\_\_\_\_ for His glory.

**Wrap Up**

As a Christ-follower, your greatest worship, your reasonable service to God, is to voluntarily present yourself, specifically your BODY, to the Lord for His glory and purpose. If one does not do this, they are resisting the Holy Spirit, choosing to obey the passions of their FLESH rather than responding to the MERCIES of God.

**Truth Point #5:** The direction your life takes, is a direct result of the \_\_\_\_\_ YOU (SOUL) make. You can respond in \_\_\_\_\_ to the promptings of The Spirit, or you can respond in \_\_\_\_\_ to the carnal promptings of your BODY (FLESH) , but you will respond one way or the other.

I encourage you today to ask God’s Spirit to enlighten this truth to you and to show you where you stand, and what next step you need to take accordingly.

**The call is to present your BODY as a living sacrifice.  
It is your true and proper act of worship to do so.**