

Day 3
Read Romans 12:1-13

Focus: Romans 12:1, 3 ¹*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

³*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

Holiness – Set Apart

One might say, “Someday I hope to be holy and not worry about making mistakes.” That is not holiness.

Holiness is what God gives to me in Jesus. Only Jesus could have paid for my sin so that I can be “clean” in God’s eyes. “Clean” is the first meaning of holiness.

Holiness-part-two is the daily practice of “setting myself apart” for God’s use. What have I already given to Him? What else can I do for Him? It’s my decision again today. One translation ends verse 1, “this will be a rational act of worship.” God waits for me to decide to make Him Lord of my life. Why? That is the heart of being human—recognizing that I was made, and then choosing to be used for my original purpose—His.

Think about that. If someone higher than me did not create me, then there is no purpose for my existence. If there is no purpose, then my life means nothing. *God breaks through that lie with the concept of holiness— set apart for special use.* My life is of incredible value. I will only realize that value as I obey Him. Verse 3 is a practical application of obedience. When I think too much of myself, I will never think enough of God or of others. When I’m always making sure I don’t get dirty or involved in other people’s lives, I will never understand them enough to love them. God has made me special, but He has also made others special.

How will you let the Lord use you today? Decide now to obey him. Decide that you want to do what He asks. Decide to love others more than they deserve because He has loved us much more than we deserve.

-Paul Madsen
Salvation Army