

## A Living Sacrifice

### Introduction:

- A. Tell of 6 year old Karen Barnes wanting to ride her bicycle to school because “everybody else is doing it.”
- B. We all face the temptation to be conformed to the world.
- C. How can we lead lives acceptable to God? - Romans 12:1-2

### I. A Living Sacrifice - verse 1

- A. “beseech”: (*parakalo*) - to call to one’s side, admonish, exhort, appeal to, urge, urge to pursue a course of action”
- B. “by”: the grounds of the appeal, all that went before in the epistle
- C. “mercies” (plural a Hebraism): pity, compassions for the ills of others, manifestations of pity
- D. “present your bodies a living sacrifice”
  - 1. allusion to the sacrifices of the Old Testament (Leviticus 4-5; Numbers 28-29)
    - a. Required sacrifices in Israel, apart from those for specific sins, were annually 601,093 lambs, 112 bullocks, 32 rams, and 18 kids of the goats.
    - b. Yet this veritable river of blood could never take away one sin. - Hebrews 10:4
    - c. Only the blood of Christ could do this. - Hebrews 9:13-14
    - d. Rather than a dead animal sacrifice, God wants me to present my body to Him as a living sacrifice.
      - (1) “holy”
        - (a) undefiled - Leviticus 22:20
        - (b) set apart from sin and to God, pure
      - (2) “acceptable to God”: only such a sacrifice is acceptable to God - Deuteronomy 17:1

### E. “reasonable service”

- 1. “reasonable” (*logiken*) - pertaining to the mind, rational, spiritual
- 2. “service” (*latreian*): the service of God, especially according to Old Testament requirements

### II. Not Conformed but Transformed - verse 2

- A. “Do not be conformed to this world”
  - 1. “conformed”: fashioned or shaped like another”
  - 2. “this world” - 1 John 2:15-17
- B. “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
  - 1. “transformed”: changed into another form - Matthew 17:1-2
  - 2. “renewing of your mind” - Ephesians 4:22-24
- C. “prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (“prove”: to test, examine, to see if a thing is genuine or not, demonstrate) - Matthew 5:16

### Conclusion:

Will you not be transformed, so that you might be an acceptable, living sacrifice to God?