

Life Church Message 2012-01-29 - Living Sacrifices, One Body, Real Love

- **Living Sacrifices, One Body, Real Love**
Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday January 29, 2012
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- **New Material**
 - **Preparation**
 - **Living Sacrifices, One Body, Real Love**
 - **Raw Material**
 - Teach the saints the power of partnering with teams to accomplish the most important goals in your lives.
 - Use Romans 8:28 and context as a confession of faith.
 - Encourage the saints to MMT (make money together) - doing things that build their relationships. Make a statement about how network marketing fits into this paradigm.
 - The life of God has to be transferred in a community. You have to give yourself away.
 - Fellowship rhythms are part of living systems.
 - God sends a person.
 - Act like a son!
 - Daniel Pink @ TED Conference - what motivates people?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrkrvAUbU9Y>
 - Autonomy - the urge to direct our own lives
 - Mastery - the desire to get better and better at something that matters.
 - Purpose - the yearning to do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves.
 - Children can be wrong about many things and still be right about the most important things - continuing to learn, obey parents, stay in school, etc.
 - All sermons and other Sunday activity should glorify Jesus and draw us closer to him.
 - Are we moving too fast to grieve properly?
 - February testimonies should illustrate Romans 12:9-21.
 - Jesus is invading this world. We are part of the invasion force.
 - Are you a shame magnet or a grace antenna?
 - **Preparation - Romans 12:9-21**
 - **Standing Issues**
 - From a word Bishop gave me:
 - Make sure people do something with God's message.
 - Make it plain:

- Use accessible language.
- Use modern day parables based on every day occurrences:
 - Sitting at a stop light
 - Driving through a green light
 - Approaching a yellow light
 - Being cut off in traffic
 - Going shopping
 - Going to a mall
 - Going to school; sitting in class
 - Going to work; sitting in your office;
- Keep it simple.
- Use illustrations of truth out of my own experience.
- Impart faith to obey the Word and receive God's promises.

- **Introduction**

- Welcome to another service at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
 - Welcome Cards -
 - “I want to call your attention to the Welcome Card that you were given on your way into the auditorium”
 - These cards do two things for us:
 - They help us get to know our new visitors better.
 - They also give anyone (visitors or members) a chance to express a need or to give us feedback.
 - By filling it out you will help us to better serve you.
 - We're going to provide time for you to complete the cards at the end of our service, but we encourage you to start filling them out now.
 - **Please use this card:**
 - if you're a **first time visitor** or if you've **never** filled one out before,
 - to tell us about a **decision you made** today,
 - to ask us for more information, or to give us **feedback**.
- Please include your contact information** unless we already have it. At the **end of service** we'll ask you to complete the card and then place it in the designated box or give it to someone from our staff on your way out.
- Transition
 - We're following up on our discussion of Romans 12:1-8.

- **Read the Passage - Romans 12:1-2**

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. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **Read the Passage - Romans 12:9-21**

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- **Exegetical Idea**

As one body in Christ, love sincerely

- **What does this mean?**

- Following Jesus more than just following his example personally and in your own strength.
 - Talk to God about how you measure up in this area.
 - Start working on the areas he highlights.
 - Work with other believers.
- There are many facets to sincere love.
 - Sincere = without hypocrisy.
 - hating evil and clinging to good.
 - devotion to one another
 - putting others first
 - growing rather than diminishing zeal
 - joyful, patient, faithful
 - sharing and hospitality
 - blessing persecutors
 - rejoicing and mourning appropriately

- harmony and humility
- not taking revenge
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
 - Compare with Matthew 5
- **What difference does it make? So What?**
 - This is the standard for sincere love.
 - This is what it means to function as Jesus' body.
 - This expresses our unity - **John 17:20-23**
- **Homiletical Idea:**
 - Living Sacrifices, One Body, Real Love
- **Determine the Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
 - Function together as Jesus' body.
 - Exhibit genuine practical love .
- **Function together as Jesus' body.**
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- **Exhibit genuine practical love.**
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- **Conclusion**

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- **Altar Call / Welcome Cards / Communion ?**

- Welcome Cards - refer to script
- We're almost ready to close this portion of our service, but first we want to give you a chance to respond to what you've heard.
- Earlier in the service we mentioned the welcome cards and we encouraged you to begin filling them out.
- Right now we want you to complete your welcome card. We especially want you to use this card if:
 - if you're a first time visitor
 - if you've never filled one out before,
 - if you want to tell us about a decision you made today,
 - if you want to ask us for more information, or to give us feedback.
- Please be sure to include your up to date contact information unless we already have it.

- **MC & Worship Team continue with tithes, offerings, and worship**

- **Benediction - Numbers 6:24-26**

““The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

- **Men's Prayer**

- **Life Group Material**

- **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#).
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Zondervan Bible Publishers.

- **Romans 12:1-2**

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- **Discussion Questions For Romans 12:1-2**

- Are you offering your body as a living sacrifice? Discuss.
- In what ways are you conformed to the pattern of this world?
- In what ways are you renewing your mind?
- In what ways have you been transformed?

- **Romans 12:3-8**

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. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.**

- **Discussion Questions**

- Are you adjusting your lifestyle so that your gifts will be more available to your brothers and sisters?
- What more have you learned about your spiritual gifts?
- What feedback have you gotten from others about your spiritual gifts?

- **Romans 12:9-21**

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- **Discussion Questions**

- Does this passage challenge you? Discuss?
- Where will you get the strength to apply this passage to your life?
- Have you spoken to the Father about this passage? Discuss.

- **Scriptures For 1/29/2012 Life Church Sermon**

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Matthew 5:17-26

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his

brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Matthew 5:38-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

John 17:20-23

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

Life Church Mission Statement

- Our mission is to teach people:
 - to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
 - to follow him together as his family,
 - to function together as his body,
 - and to work together to expand his kingdom.

Understanding The Bible

Unless otherwise indicated, scriptures are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV) Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages for today's sermon at Life Church. We use mostly the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been

accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). Don't be alarmed - the passages are really from the Bible!

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then! **We believe that if you're reading an English translation of the Bible it ought to be up to date - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**

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