



**We Swim for Jesus!**

**“And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy – the kind He can accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you.”**

**Romans 12:1-2**

## **Bible Verse for Week #28**

### **Life Application notes**

1. God has done so much for us. He loved us even when we had no use for Him; He sent Jesus to die for us, paying the penalty for our sins. He gives us eternal life through faith in Christ; He gives us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. God’s mercy is overwhelming! In light of all that God has done for us, how can we do less than live totally for Him? Stop right now and thank God for his love and mercy, and commit yourself to live for Him
2. When sacrificing an animal according to God’s law, a priest would kill the animal, cut it in pieces, and place it on the altar. Sacrifice was important, but even in the Old Testament God made it clear that obedience from the heart was much more important (see 1 Sam. 15:22; Ps. 40:6; and Amos 5:21-24). God wants us to offer ourselves, not animals, as living sacrifices daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him, putting all our energy and resources at His disposal.
3. God wants us to be living sacrifices. That sounds like a contradiction in terms – how can a sacrifice that was killed be alive? The point is that when we accept Christ as Savior, we still have a will – the ability to choose – and we continue to live in the world. But God wants us to choose to do His will, acting as though we are dead to sin and the temptations in the world. Be dead to the world and alive to God.

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“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

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4. Christians are called not to copy or conform to the world's customs and behavior. Many Christians wisely decide that much worldly behavior is off limits for them. Our refusal to conform to this world's values, however, must go even deeper than not doing certain things – we must also reject worldly values. Don't be fooled into measuring spirituality by out-ward actions. Go deeper – allow Christ to renew your mind.
5. This passage refers to four areas of life: physical (“bodies”), mental (“mind” or “think”), social (not conforming to the world), and spiritual (discovering God's will and obeying it). God is interested in every aspect of our lives, not just the spiritual area. What areas are you withholding from Christ's control?
6. This passage speaks of God's will. Some people are afraid of God's will thinking that God might want something very unpleasant for them. When we give ourselves totally to God, trusting Him implicitly in every area of life, then we will learn what He wants. And we will see how wonderful His ways are. Don't be afraid of God; He wants only the best for you. Trust Him.

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