

The Normal Christian Life

The Path of Progress: Presenting Ourselves to God

- **Rom: 6:13** – Neither present your members as weapons of unrighteousness to sin, but **present** yourselves to God as alive from the dead, and your members as weapons of righteousness to God.
 - The word “present” here implies **consecration**. But it is not the consecration of our “old man” with his instincts and resources.
 - In **verse 13**, the “presenting” spoken of is the outcome of our **knowing** our **old man to be crucified**.
 - Knowing, reckoning, presenting to God: that is the Divine order.
- **Presenting** ourselves to God means that we consider our **whole life** as now **belonging to the Lord**.

The Third Step: “Present Yourselves...”

- God requires of us that we now regard **all** our members, **all** our faculties, as belonging wholly to Him.
- It is a great thing to discover that we are no longer our own, but His.
 - Real Christian life begins with knowing this.
 - We must realize that **everything we are** and **have** are the **Lord's**. In this way we dare not us our time or money or talents as we would.

Separated Unto the Lord

- We become **holy** by being **separated unto God**.
- Holiness in the Hebrew sense meant something **set apart**, and all true holiness is holiness “to the Lord”.
 - I give myself over wholly to Christ: that is holiness.
- Presenting ourselves to God implies a **recognition** that we are **altogether His**.
 - We are consecrated **not to Christian work**, but *to the will of God to be and do whatever He wants*.
 - We must be **willing** to be either **generals or gatekeepers**, allotted to our parts just as God wills and not as we choose.
- The strong **self-assertive will** must **go to the Cross**, and we must give ourselves over wholly to the Lord.

Servant or Slave?

- If we give ourselves **unreservedly** to God, many **adjustments** may have to be made.
 - God will not let **anything** of ourselves remain.
 - We must admit that we still have controversies with the Lord.
 - He wants something, while we want something else.
 - It is a **blessed** thing just to hand ourselves over to Him and let Him **have His way** with us.
- We must first have the sense of **God's possession** of us before we can have the sense of **His presence** with us.
 - **Rom. 6:16** – Do you not know that to whom you **present** yourselves as **slaves** for obedience, **his slaves you are whom you obey**, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?
 - A **servant** may **serve another**, but the ownership does not pass to that offer. A **slave** is not only the servant of another but he is the **possession of another**.
 - We are slaves of the Lord because on His part **He bought us**, and on our part **we presented ourselves** to Him.
- After we give ourselves to the Lord, He begins to **break** what was offered to Him.
 - Everything seems to go wrong, and we protest and find fault with the ways of God.
 - Day by day we must **go on giving to Him**, not finding fault with His use of us but **accepting with praise** even what the flesh revolts against.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 6)