

## The Normal Christian Life

### One Body in Christ

#### One Living Sacrifice

- We may summarize chapters 5-8 and 12 (which follows a parenthetical section) in the following way:
  - Chapter 5 – Our **sins are forgiven**.
  - Chapter 6 – We are **dead with Christ**.
  - Chapter 7 – We are **by nature utterly helpless**.
  - Chapter 8 – Therefore we **rely upon the indwelling Spirit**.
  - Chapter 12 – We are **one Body in Christ**.
- **Romans 12 and 13** contain some very practical instruction for our life and walk.
  - **Rom. 12:1** – I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to **present** your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, well **pleasing to God**, *which is your reasonable service*.
    - This is a call to us for a **united** step of faith, the presenting of our bodies as **one** “living sacrifice” unto God.
    - The “**presenting**” is **personal** but the **sacrifice** is **corporate**.
    - We need never feel our contribution is not needed, for if it **contributes** to *the service*, **God is satisfied**.
- The **vessel** through which the Lord Jesus can reveal Himself in this generation is **not the individual but the Body**.
  - It requires a **complete Body** to attain to the stature of Christ and display His glory.
  - **Individual Christians** are **members** of the Body, and in a human body “all the members have not the same office.”
  - Alone, we cannot serve the Lord **effectively**.

#### More Than Conquerors Through Him

- There was **something in God’s mind** *before* the Fall, and in the ages to come that thing is to be **fully realized**.
  - In **Ephesians 5** we stand within the **history of redemption**, and yet through grace we still have this **eternal purpose** of God in view as expressed in the statement that He will “present unto himself a **glorious Church**.”

- Now we need the **water of life** and the **cleansing Word** to **prepare** the Church.
- For now there are **defects** to be remedied and wounds to be healed.
- Today, the age is closing and Satan's power is greater than ever.
  - Our **warfare** is with angels and principalities and powers who are set to **withstand and destroy the work of God in us**.
  - **Alone** we could never be their match.
- **Sin, self-reliance,** and **individualism** were **Satan's master-strokes** at the heart of God's purpose in man.
  - Praise the Lord that at the **Cross**, God has undone them!
  - We, His Church, are “more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 11)