

DEDICATION: THE MEANS OF BECOMING A DISCIPLE

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WE SHOULD DEDICATE OUR LIVES

Psalm 139:14-16 (KJV)

¹⁴ *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

¹⁵ *My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

¹⁶ *Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

Ephesians 1:3 (KJV)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

In light of all these blessings we have received, we should dedicate our lives.

1. THE BASIS OF DEDICATION

What is the basis given by Scripture to dedicate ourselves to the Lord, to make Him the Lord of our lives?

In Scripture, dedication is always on the basis of blessings received. Because of what we have received from God, we should dedicate ourselves to God.

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

To dedicate ourselves, is on the basis of the *mercies of God*.

The mercies of God are in light of what God has done for us, by providing **justification, sanctification, and glorification**.

a. Justification

Justification is the act of God by which He declares the sinner righteous on the basis of the perfect righteousness of Jesus. So justification simply means “to declare righteous.”

It is the judicial act of God by which He declares that all claims of the Law are satisfied with respect to be sinner on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus.

b. Sanctification

The basis meaning of sanctification is “to be set apart.”

To sanctify something simply means, “to set it apart.”

In relation to its being a fact of the believer’s salvation, sanctification is defined as:

“The work of God’s free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live unto righteousness.”

It is that gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Spirit by which He purifies the sinner, renews his whole nature in the image of God, and enables him to perform good works.

c. Glorification

It is God’s will that man reach a state of glorification.

Believers have the grace to stand before the throne of God; but as they stand in this grace, they are also standing in the hope of being glorified in the future.

Glorification is the final product of God’s destiny for those whom He has chosen.

Those He foreordained, He then Called; those whom He called, He also justified; those who now believe, have been justified; and those who have been justified are also destined to be glorified.

The truth is found here:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

Because of the blessing we have received, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and because we have become a temple of the Holy Spirit, for these reasons, we should *glorify... God in [our] body*.

2. THE COMPONENTS OF DEDICATION

There are three specific components.

a. Surrender

Romans 6:13 (KJV)

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

It is a decisive presentation of our body, dedicating it to the Lord’s use.

b. Separation

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

After dedicating ourselves to the Lord, we should not be: fashioned according to this world.

This is the key characteristic of the spiritual life. We do not conform to the world; we do conform to the Word.

So as far as the world is concerned, we are unfashionable. We need to reject the pattern of life common to our *former lust* when we were in the state of spiritual ignorance.

c. Transformation

The means of transformation is: *by the renewing of the mind*. The result will be the proving of: *what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God*.

This is the inward area, inward conformity to what the Bible demands. You have to know who you are and what God expects from you.

Jeremiah 1:5 (KJV)

⁵ *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

3. THE MEANING OF DEDICATION

James 4:7 (KJV)

⁷ *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Simply put, the meaning of dedication is: **subjection of one's life to Jesus**.

The meaning of dedication is that we are subjecting ourselves; we are subjecting our lives to Jesus.

4. THE AREAS OF DEDICATION

First is the believer himself. The believer must personally be dedicated to the Jesus.

Second facet concerning the areas of dedication is the body. Not only the individual, but the body in particular needs to be dedicated.

5. THE FREQUENCY OF DEDICATION

How often should we dedicate ourselves and our bodies?

We need to make a one-time-only dedication of ourselves and our body to the Lord's use.

However, having made this initial once-and-for-all dedication, it does require of us a continuous commitment.

The believer now needs to find out what the will of God is in any particular situation.

What if a believer falls away from his dedication – what if there is a violation of the dedication vow?

Would that not mean that now he must re-dedicate his life all over again?

The answer is, "No."

The remedy to a violated dedication vow is not re-dedication, because we do not need to do again what was done at the initial act of dedication. We do not automatically "start from scratch."

Rather than thinking in terms of re-dedication, we should think in terms of **restoration**.

When we fall off track, we do not go back to the beginning. We simply need to get back on track from the point where we left off and carry on – all is not lost.

If you have at one point in your life dedicated your body to the Lord, made Him the Lord of your life, you now need to examine where you stand on this line of dedication.

Proverbs 24:16-18 (KJV)

¹⁶ *For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.*

¹⁷ *Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:*

¹⁸ *Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.*

6. THE RESULTS OF DEDICATION

Dedication allows the Holy Spirit to fill the believer because dedication is the prerequisite for filling in the spiritual life. **That becomes the beginning of the road to discipleship.**