

Sermon Growth Guide

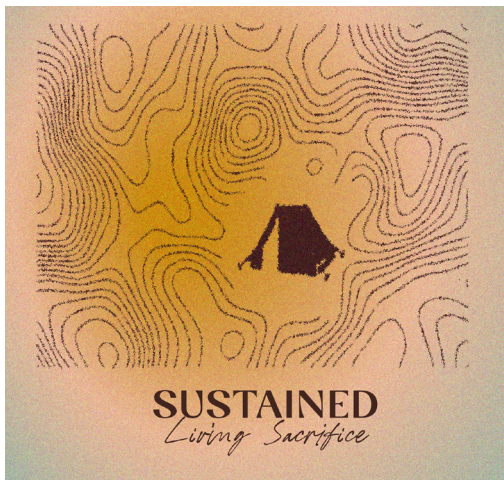
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SUSTAINED | Romans 12:14-21

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Key Verse: Romans 12:21 - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Big Idea: "The Jesus way is what changes the world."



Foundations

This week we continue in Romans, in our theme of A Living Sacrifice. This whole chapter shows what it looks like for us to lay ourselves out – to be humble, transformed, devoted, and willing to be one part of the body of Christ.

This passage asks us to be a living sacrifice by choosing to both realize and act like the world does not revolve around us. Our emotions, our pain, our accomplishments, our revenge, are all to be laid at the feet of Jesus. We are called to love our neighbors in spite of each of these things. This is what it is to 'put on love.' The beginning of chapter twelve asks us to offer our bodies as a 'living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.' This is a choice - to empty ourselves of our tendency to focus on our selves and instead for Christ to renew our minds so we can focus on the good and wellbeing of others. We don't simply forget those many things that we lay down at Jesus' feet, but rather trust that any wrongs done us will be avenged by the Lord. This is also how we 'live at peace with everyone,' by recognizing that God sees us and will take revenge when needed. We can live at peace and love others when we know that God stands behind us.

Pastor Tim wisely points out, however, that there are limits to our responsibility. We do not need to stay in abusive relationships. As Pastor Tim mentioned, 'Own (what depends on you), have peace before the Lord, and move on.'

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Romans 12:14-21. Here we read so many instructions that go against human nature. We often seek vengeance. We aren't humble. We feel justified in our treatment of others. What are we called to instead? Which of these is the hardest for you to swallow?

Applying God's Word

This entire passage is about application. We are called to bless others, rejoice, mourn, live in harmony, be humble, not repay anyone evil for evil, live at peace, feed our enemies, and overcome evil with good. Which of these is hardest for you to do? Do any come naturally? Are there any that you have grown in? Pray about it. What is God leading to grow you in now?

Witnessing God's Word

Pastor Tim points out in the sermon that "The Jesus Way is what changes the world." How would your world change if you consistently returned evil for good, and sought humility and peace? How would the world change if more people didn't seek vengeance? What is one tangible change that you can make today to practice what this passage preaches?