

Sermon Outline: “Living Sacrifices” Romans 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION: “*The chicken, the pig & the church dinner*”

- I. LIVING SACRIFICES PUT THEMSELVES INTO GOD’S HANDS
 - A. Living sacrifices: The Old Testament background
 - B. Today: *What would Jesus do*
 - C. Today: *What would I do if Jesus were right by my side*

- I. LIVING SACRIFICES ARE NOT CONFORMED TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD
 - A. *Conformed (synsicamadzo)*: molded replicas
 - B. *Holy*: not a replica, but unique, separate & different
 - C. *Peer pressure*: not just for teenagers

- III. LIVING SACRIFICES HAVE THEIR INNER DIRECTION TRANSFORMED
 - A. *Transformed (metamorpho)*: reformed, reshaped
 - B. By the “*renewing of the mind*” (*nous* = “noodle”)
 - C. *Mind* really means my inner direction: thinking, feeling, believing
 - D. This transformation leads one to know God’s will (*thelema*): present desire

- IV. ALL OF THE ABOVE IS ONLY POSSIBLE *IN VIEW OF GOD’S MERCY*
 - A. Verse 1 is the key: “*In view of God’s mercy...*”
 - B. This “key” runs all through the book of Romans
 - C. 3:23-24; 5:1-2,6-8; 7:24-25; 8:1, 28, 31
 - D. Jesus is God’s mercy and living sacrifice for us

CONCLUSION: *The mercy of a policeman at a traffic light*