

II. Commit Yourself to the Health of the Testimony

Romans 12:1-5

A. Introductory thoughts

1. This word is addressed to those who are in the family of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are called "brethren." The particular challenge of these verses is that they would see themselves as belonging to the Lord and to His people. One might think that is an automatic response but everywhere there are those who while professing to belong to the Lord at the same time are detached from His people.

2. By the term "testimony" as given above, I intend the local fellowship as well as that which goes beyond local companies into the world. I think the commitment to the immediate body is what shows the reality of our commitment beyond that. We are members of the whole body but in a special sense we are part of the immediate family and the health of the former is very much dependent on the health of the latter. If that is confusing...I am not going to try it again.

3. What the Apostle discusses in these verses is a very personal matter and it is hoped that every believer would take it that way and give serious attention to it.

B. Discussion

In realizing this concept for the Christian (the concept of commitment as expressed above), the most important aspects of performance follow:

1. Present Yourself to God

Romans 12:1

God is interested in your life. It becomes meaningful to Him and us when it is presented as a "living sacrifice". It is a matter of regularly acknowledging that we belong to Him and are given to Him by virtue of what the Lord Jesus has done. The living sacrifice is "holy"..it is set apart to God, it is "acceptable" for it is what God wants, and it is your "reasonable service" meaning it is the fitting act of worship. At our level it follows the supreme