

## Matthew 10:39

“He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

## Romans 6

“<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?”

“<sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

## Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”

**Take your baptism seriously.**

**It's no longer  
all about  
you or  
this life.**



## Romans 12

“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,

to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

*vs 1a*

*vs 1b*

1.  
The Grace of  
God deeply  
sensed

2.  
The Cross of  
Christ willingly  
carried



**What does  
a living sacrifice  
look like?**



## Romans 12

“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,

to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

*vs 1a*

*vs 1b*

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

*vs 2*

1.  
The Grace of  
God deeply  
sensed

2.  
The Cross of  
Christ willingly  
carried.

a.  
Dealing with  
this world

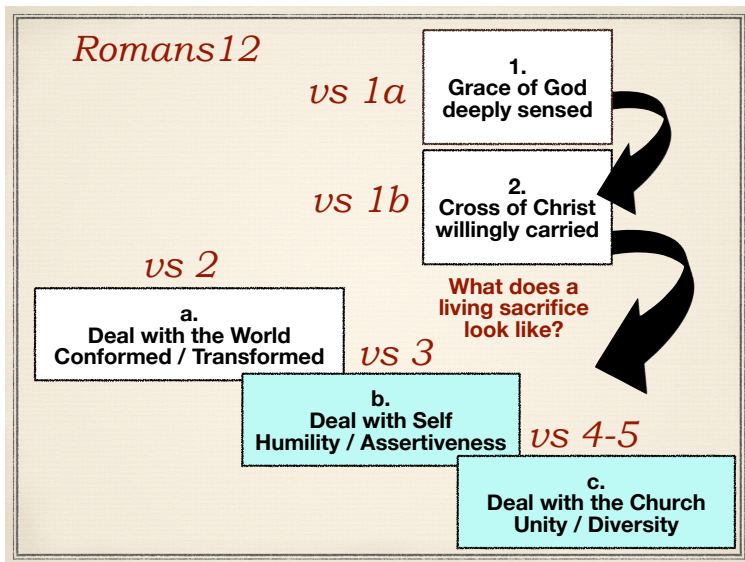


**EWTV**  
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who call for the liberation of women to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

“Liberation in the Kingdom of God is being set free to exercise the power to love. If I have the Spirit of Christ I do not need a position or a title to exercise all the power I need or want.”





*Romans 12*

“<sup>3</sup> For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

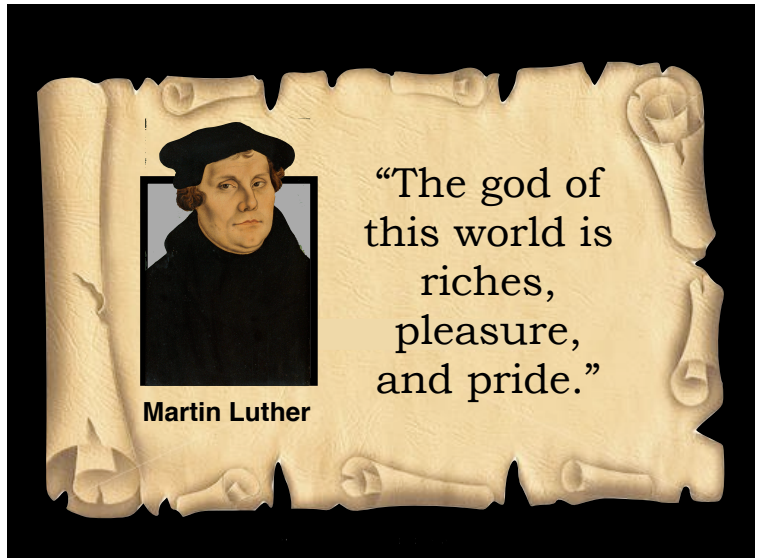
**Two challenges:**

**1. To think too highly of ourselves.**

*Romans 12*

“<sup>3</sup> For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

**A living sacrifice means Humility**



**Challenges to our PRIDE**

“... as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

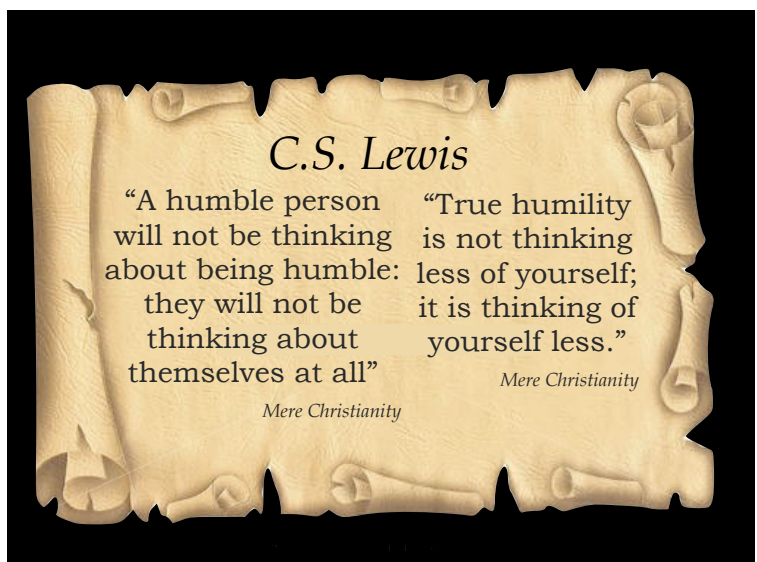
**1. We don't choose our gifts.**

“<sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,”

**2. We are not the standard for others.**

“<sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

**3. We are not independent contractors.**





Spiritual formation:

Know yourself  
Accept yourself  
**Forget yourself**  
Give yourself

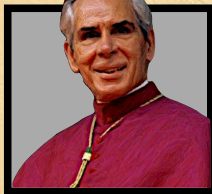
### **Two challenges:**

- 1. To think too highly of ourselves.**
- 2. To think too lowly of ourselves.**

### **Romans 12**

“<sup>3</sup> For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, **as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**”

**A living sacrifice means  
Confidence**



Fulton J. Sheen

“Pride is an admission of weakness; it secretly fears all competition and dreads all rivals.”

### **2 Corinthians 12:10**

“Therefore I am will content with weaknesses, . . . for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

### **1 Peter 4**

“<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks, *is to do* so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do* so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;”

### **Spiritual Confidence**

- This is not an expression of pride but of faith.
- Humility prevents confidence from looking like arrogance.
- The ministry gifts that are given by God also come with the faith / confidence to use them.
- Having confidence to do certain things does not mean that we are more spiritual than those who do not have that same faith.
- The healthy church will make room for all the gifts of God's people.
- We should expect to have confidence to do something but not everything well.





John Wooden  
BB Coach

“Don’t let what  
you cannot do  
interfere with  
what you can  
do.”

“<sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,”

### A living sacrifice means respect for **Diversity.**

- We share a common Spirit but not a common function or role in ministry.
- Don’t kick your neighbor because he or she plays a different instrument in God’s spiritual orchestra or a different position on His team.
- Don’t lose your balance and reduce the whole Christian life to your particular ministry gift.

## DIVERSITY



**Our appointed  
role in the  
Body of Christ.**

#### Our physical nature.

- dna
- gender
- appearance
- abilities

#### Our natural history.

- social context
- psychological context
- personal experiences
- response / maturity

#### Our spiritual development.

- “natural man”
- “carnal man”
- “babe in Christ”
- “mature in Christ”

## DIVERSITY



**Our appointed  
role in the  
Body of Christ.**

#### Our physical nature.

is a given that we may  
not be able to change.

Our natural history  
may be altered in part.

#### Our spiritual development

is largely the result of  
how we respond to our  
physical nature and  
natural history.

**Our celebration of diversity  
is a witness to our  
transformed mind.**  
**Our fear of diversity  
is a witness to our  
conformity to this world.**

**We are all created equal ONLY  
under the law and with respect  
to God’s love!**

**Our roles in the  
body of Christ are  
ascribed not  
achieved.**

**Our inequalities  
are designed to  
glorify God and  
edify His people.**

“<sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

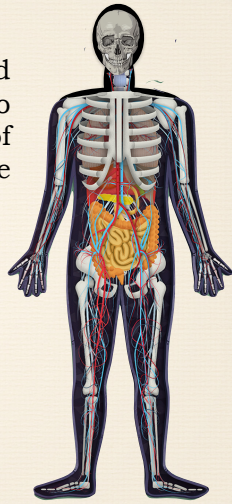
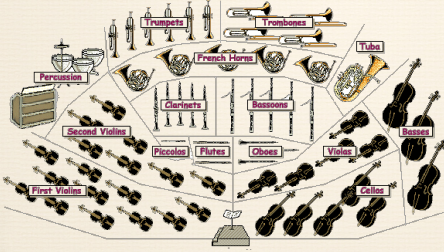
### A living sacrifice means respect for **COME + UNITY.**

- We have an individual identity and a corporate identity.
- We are not only connected by faith to Christ but also to one another.



*Matthew 25:40*

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”



“A team plays for the name on the front of the jersey not for the name on the back!”

*Dean Smith*



**Mother Teresa**

When asked about her ministry as a social worker she replied,  
“My ministry is not social work, it is worship. My care for the suffering is my love for Jesus.”

**Mother Teresa has been controversial for comforting the dying without doing all she could to make them comfortable.**

**BUT**  
**does God comforts us primarily to make us comfortable or is it to enable us to know Jesus and comfort others?**

Philippians 3:10    2 Corinthians 1:3-7

***Trying to follow Christ while burdened down with the world's values will bring no peace.***

- ✓ We will be torn between two masters
- ✓ and grow to view God as an unjust taskmaster
- ✓ or we will edit the rules of engagement to fit this evil age of proud, narcissistic, hedonistic, individualism.

***Things that should never characterize us***

- Lone Ranger spiritual lifestyle
- Assuming that our gift = spirituality
- Measuring others by our preference, passion, or power
- Failing to relate through the common faith that binds us to one another
- Failing to humbly receive ministry from those differing from us
- Limiting our expression to our gifts