WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Sacrifice

Genesis 2:16,17- (God speaks to Adam)-- of every tree of the garden "thou mayest freely eat"-- of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "thou shalt not" eat of it --

<u>I Corinthians 10:21</u> - Ye cannot be partakers of the Lords table, and the table of devils.

Malachi 1:7,8 - Ye offer polluted bread--ye say, the table of the Lord is contemptible - if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now to thy governor, will he be pleased with thee?

Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore brethren—that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice.

<u>Galatians 5:14</u> - for all the <u>law</u> is fulfilled in one word even in this; thou shalt <u>love</u> thy neighbor as thyself.

Romans 7:14 - the law is spiritual

<u>law</u> - Greek: nomos - from the verb nemo - to parcel out food for grazing animals (particularly sheep) prescribed usage by regulation (lawful).

<u>love</u> - Greek: agape - to regard another's welfare by giving them truth; not necessarily affection which is the word phileo; to give the world Christ as he was given to us (I John 4:8,9). Since God is Agape (love), we give men all the instructions of God when we Agapeo (the verb) them.

When we love our neighbor we fulfill the law (nomos-legal food) or we eat at the Lord's table. God requires acceptable sacrifice at his table. The priests of the temple ate of the sacrifice which they offered. Peter said that we are an holy priesthood (I Peter 2:5). The sacrifice we offer is self. A man does not sacrifice when he goes to his garage and gives his old shoes to the poor and needy. That's like a priest offering a blind or lame lamb upon the alter. "The lamb was going to die anyway." To sacrifice is to offer the best we have. We should take the shoes off our feet and the ring off our finger and give to God. David said, "neither will I offer sacrifice unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing (II Samuel 24:24)." When we eat at the Lord's table loving our neighbor, we sacrifice all of self giving all unto God (Matt. 25:45). God does not merely want 10%. He wants 100% of all we have (and what we are) committed in sacrifice unto him (Col. 3:17; I Cor. 10:31).

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