



Newsletter

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- Up Words # 53

THAT'S REASONABLE



With Valentines Day approaching this Friday it is reasonable to think that those of us who are married will do something special for our spouses. There are certainly some expectations that come with the day. A Valentines Day card for your sweetheart is a good idea and maybe some flowers or a box of chocolates as well. Perhaps a nice dinner at your favorite restaurant might be a part of your plans, and even if its a little expensive you probably won't think it is unreasonable to spend this on the one you love.

Romans 12:1 provides insight into how we are to express our love for God. The New American Standard version puts it this way, "Therefore I urge you, 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. The phrase "your spiritual service of worship" is translated in the King James Version as "your reasonable service." The Greek word translated "spiritual" or "reasonable" is "logikan" from which we get our word "logical." When we love God and begin to comprehend His love for us, it is reasonable or logical that we would want to give ourselves to Him as a holy and pure sacrifice.

Romans 12:2 continues the thought that it is reasonable or logical and spiritual that we not conform to the world but live a transformed life beginning with how we think about things. I really like the way the essence of Romans 12:1-2 is captured in The Idiomatic Translation of the New Testament done by William Graham Macdonald in 2008. His translation reads, "Through God's loving embraces, I encourage you, brothers, to present your bodies to him as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to him. To do this is the reasonable implementation of your sacred service. Moreover, do not let yourselves be pressured into conforming to this age, but be transformed with a new way of thinking—a mindset that proves the value of God's will as good, approved, and ultimate."

If we fail to give our loved ones a note or card, that is not acceptable. Likewise, if we fail to give God our deepest devotion and holy service. This Valentines week, let's remember God's great love for us and then commit our lives to Him; to do so is only reasonable.

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle