

**The Outlaw Way**  
Small Group Guide  
Week 4: A Living Sacrifice

Series: The Outlaw Way is a 4-week series where we will look at the Roman Road to Salvation. Our memory verse for this series is Romans 1:16.

Scripture: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Romans 1:16a*

Small Group Goal: To help students understand that they need a savior, Jesus

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Sermon Summary: We are going to be talking about how to live this Outlaw Way

**Make your life a living sacrifice**

- a) What do you think it means to make your life a living sacrifice to God?
- b) Many people think it means giving up our wants and instead doing what God wants.
  - a. Does that make anyone scared?
  - b. Are you afraid that if you do this God is going to have you be a missionary?
  - c. For a long time, and even now, I can be afraid with this.
  - d. What if God wants me to do something I don't want to do
- c) In my house, we have a saying: God Cares About the Little Things
- d) Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- e) Psalms 139 tells us that the Lord knows us completely because he knit us together
- f) When we live for God it is the best way to get out of life what we truly want

**The next thing Paul tells us is "Do not be conformed to this world"**

- a) Everything around you is trying to get you to conform your thoughts and actions
- b) When COVID started I didn't know what to believe or who I could trust.
- c) You all live in a unique time in history. Thanks to social media and the influence of the internet, you now have information that wasn't available to any other generation. This can be good and bad, but it gives you an opportunity to see through some of the lies of the culture.
  - a. In every kids TV show the dad is an idiot
  - b. Everywhere you look you see things about gender and sexual identity, about racism and the environment.
  - c. The world around you wants to conform you to it's views about marriage, sex, drugs, and whatever else. This isn't new.
- d) Romans 1:28-32
  - a. Because the world won't acknowledge God as God, they gave them up to a debased mind.
  - b. Debased means unable to stand the test or worthless.
  - c. I think this is one of the scariest ideas, God gave these people what they wanted
  - d. C.S. Lewis said that "Hell is a door locked from the inside."
  - e. The idea is that people can push God away until they end up spending eternity apart from him.

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**The last point in these verses is “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”**

- a) First point is that this “Be transformed” is a passive statement. It is something that happens not something you do
- b) So what does it mean “the renewing of your mind?”
  - a. First let’s talk about what it is not:
    - Not switching from your to-do list to God’s to-do list
    - It is not adding more information or knowledge
    - It isn’t a one time or instant thing
  - b. What it is:
    - The work of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 tells us that, “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
    - It is ongoing. This is something that erodes if you neglect it.
    - If the problem starts with people failing to recognize God as God and worshiping, the answer is seeing God for what he truly is.
    - II Corinthians 3:16-18 says, “16But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
  - c. So how do you renew your mind:
    - Cooperate with the Holy Spirit – invite him to renew your mind
    - Seek out an accurate picture of God – the cross is a great place to start
    - Spend time in God’s word – New Testament and Epistles
    - Talk to God

**Let’s wrap up with the overview of the Outlaw Way**

Make your life a living sacrifice  
Do not be conformed to this world  
Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

1. How do you feel about the idea of making your life a living sacrifice? Does it scare you?
2. How do you fight against being conformed to this world?
3. What are the main things that influence you?
4. What do you think about this idea of being transformed by the renewal of your mind?
5. What is your picture of God? Do you think that is accurate? Why?