



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

If there is one donut left at work, what do you do? Do you eat it, leave it or give it to someone else?

Who is the most giving person you know and what makes them the most giving?



MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin continued our series, “Rise and Shine,” talking about sacrificial living. This week’s message is based on Romans 12:1:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

1. How would you explain being a living sacrifice to someone?

In the Old Testament, it was tradition to have sacrifices regularly when you wanted to give thanks and mostly when you sinned. But when Jesus came and gave His life for us in the New Testament, we no longer had to give a sacrifice because He was the ultimate sacrifice for us and our sins.

Pastor Kevin said, “Sacrifice is giving your best for the one you love the most.”

2. Have you ever had a time in your life where someone gave up something of value for you? How did that make you feel? How did it affect your relationship with that person?





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In order to be a living sacrifice for other people, we give up what we want and desire for God and others. Sacrifice looks like denying ourselves of things so we can live sacrificially for God and others. Simon Sinek wrote a book about leadership called, “Leaders Eat Last,” in it he talks about leaders that give up something of their own, saying, “When it matters, leaders choose to eat last.” Leaders are the ones who are willing to give up something of their own for others, practicing self-denial.

3. What is a practical way that you can practice self-denial and live sacrificially in your life?

True love requires sacrifice. Sacrifice can be fulfilled in multiple ways. If we continue in Romans 12, we see Paul give us three practical and specific ways to live sacrificially: **practice humility, practice hospitality and practice generosity.**

4. Which of these three ways is easiest for you? Which is the hardest?

Practice Humility

Humility is healthy self-forgetfulness. Humility means associating with people who can do nothing for us and expecting absolutely nothing in return from them.

Read Romans 12:3 and 12:16.

When we practice humility, we notice those who are overlooked; loving and caring for them like Jesus would.

5. Is there someone in your life you have overlooked and you need to practice humility with? How can you practice humility with them?





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Practice Hospitality

When we practice hospitality, we are loving strangers and making space for them in our homes, schedules, dinner tables and our hearts. We sacrifice for others when we are hospitable to them, showing Christ's love and His sacrifice for all.

6. How do you practice hospitality in your life? What would it look like for you to sacrificially practice hospitality in your life?

The last specific way you can live sacrificially is to practice generosity.

Practice Generosity

Read Romans 12:8, 12:13 and 12:20.

Generosity can be lived out by giving of our finances, time and our resources. When our hearts are in line with God, we give generously as an act of worship to Him, trusting Him with everything He has given us.

7. What are some specific ways you can practice generosity in your life? Where can you sacrificially give your finances, time and resources?

God loves us the same today as He did yesterday. His love for us never changes and He won't love us more if we practice humility, hospitality and generosity in our lives. It's out of our love for Him that we should live sacrificially. Jesus was the best example of living sacrificially. Jesus is love and love always sacrifices for others.





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PRAYER

Jesus, you are the ultimate sacrifice for us. You love us so much you died for us. Forgive us for making it all about us, for acting selfishly. Please give us your heart of love for others, a heart that is willing to live sacrificially for your glory, not our own. Give us a heart where people would see you in our lives and not just us. Help us build our life on you and how to sacrificially live so you receive the glory and people come to know you. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Practice humility and generosity this week by going out and showing love to others who you may not otherwise associate with or think to help. You can go to www.crosspoint.tv/local to sign up for Serve the City.

In a few weeks you have the opportunity to practice hospitality by signing up to serve at one of our Easter services. Go to www.crosspoint.tv/easter for more details.

