

SINGLE ALLIANCE

Living on the Edge- Pt. 1

I. Introduction

- A. Today we are in a new classroom!
- B. We are starting a new series called, "**Living on the Edge**" based upon the book by Chip Ingram by the same name.
- C. This series is on Romans 12
- D. Recap of Romans 1-11
 - 1. Romans 1-3- Paul proves both Gentiles and Jews are guilty of sins and are sinners by nature and are in need of both salvation and life
 - 2. Romans 3-5- God's provides justification for sinners by faith through the offering and death of Jesus Christ
 - 3. Romans 6-8- God's provides sanctification for believers by faith through the resurrection and life of Jesus Christ within them
 - 4. Romans 9-11- God's sovereign purpose and plan of redemption for both Gentiles and Jews
- E. Romans 12 is the beginning of the practical teaching in the book of Romans. You must understand the principles taught in chapters 6-8 to properly walk out the commands found in chapter 12.

II. Principles of Romans 6-8

- A. Jesus came to pay for our sins by His shed blood. This is justification. Chapters 1-5
- B. Jesus also came to take the old man [creation] to the cross and death with Him so that a new one could be created. This is identification
- C. Through the death of Jesus we died to sin- Romans 6- this means we do not try to overcome sin by our struggle any longer. We have been freed from the power of sin by dying. We

now simply trust the Lord to overcome temptation **FOR** us since we have died to it.

D. Through the death of Jesus we died to the law- Romans 7- This means we are not responsible to produce life and holiness by our own will-power. This is trusting God to produce Christian virtues **FOR** you, **IN** you, and **THROUGH** you by faith.

E. We are daily delivered and sanctified by the Spirit of Christ producing life and holiness **FOR** us, **IN** us, and **THROUGH** us. This is the Vine Principle Jesus taught before He died. [**John 15:5**] We are branches and He is the Vine. The Vine produces **ALL** we need and we receive, express, and bear the fruit. This is the new arrangement taught in the first half of Romans that must be followed to do Romans 12!

F. Romans 12 is the "therefore" chapter. Building on these principles we now are to live out the Christ Life!

G. The commands of Romans 12 are an outline or picture of the life of Jesus Christ. We cannot produce this kind of life. We must walk by faith in the Spirit performing it **FOR** us, **IN** us, and **THROUGH** us by faith. The life of Christ will live out Romans 12 in and through us!

III. The First Step- Surrender

A. Romans 12:1

B. The first step after we are saved is to offer God our bodies for Him to express His life through in order to bear His fruit. The Lord will not live for us, in us, or through us without our cooperation. This is the giving not only of our body but also of our **WILL** to God

C. This consecration is not us being willing to live for God, but it is the willingness to have the Lord live for us, in us, and through us to do His will. It is the response of the new creation to God!

D. The motivation behind our surrender- The mercy of God!

1. Many people are afraid to surrender themselves totally to God. Why is this? Many think that God will have them do

things they would hate- marry someone ugly, move to Africa and live in a mud tent, etc.

2. God loves us and has mercy on us. If He calls you to marry someone ugly or move to Africa He will put a desire to do so in your heart!

3. You will never experience life to the full until you have fully surrendered to God.

4. Sometimes people do not feel willing to God's will. All you need to be is to be willing to be made willing and that is surrender. God will provide all the willingness you need if you are willing to be made willing. **Phil. 2:13**

E. The reason for our surrender- Spiritual Worship!

1. Surrendering ourselves is spiritual worship.

2. Worship is giving back to God the best of what He has given to you! Ultimate worship is to give back to God yourself for His sole use.

3. To surrender your body and self to God for Him to live through, it will involve death and life. As we trust the Lord to live FOR us, IN us, and THROUGH us, the Spirit of God will put to death the flesh and manifest His life through our body.

[Romans 8:13, 2 Cor. 4:10] This is being a **LIVING SACRIFICE! This gives God worship and glory!**

F. Prayer for Surrender