

The Cost Of Dedication. Romans 12:1-2

What comes to your mind when you hear the word dedicated?

Webster will define that word:

- Wholly committed to something, as to an ideal, political cause, or personal goal.
- Set apart or reserved for a specific use or purpose.
- Made or designed to interconnect exclusively with one model or a limited range of models in a manufacturer's line.

How does the Bible define the word “dedicated”?

- Set apart for sacred use.
 - Tabernacle
 - Solomon’s Temple
 - Samuel – Hannah is childless – God promises a child – hinged on the dedication of Hannah to keep her vow. **I Samuel**
 - The believer in Jesus Christ.
 - **Romans 12:1-2**
 - Dedicate your body:
 - Living and holy sacrifice.
 - Acceptable to God.
 - This is your spiritual service of worship.
 - Change your way of thinking.

What does that look like in life, to be wholly dedicated to something?

Then comes the time for action and 56 men would rise from their seats on the Continental Congress floor and come forward to sign this Declaration Of Independence.

- As the President of the Continental Congress, John Hancock of Massachusetts was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence on Aug. 2, 1776.
- The last person to sign the document was Thomas Kean of Delaware, and it is believed he signed after January 1777.
- 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

- 12 signers had their homes ransacked and burned.
- 2 lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had 2 sons captured.
- 9 of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.
- They signed, and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Men of means well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

We can truly say that these men were dedicated to the cause of Independence for these now United States.

What are you dedicated to this morning?

- Football Team
- Political Party
- Church (watch dog)

Now back to our **Romans 12:1-2**:

- The Apostle Paul concluded his letters with a list of practical duties that were based on the doctrines he had discussed in the letter.
 - In the Christian life, doctrine and duty always go together.

Then we have to ask, what are my Christian duties?

- I will accept God's placement of me within His Church.
 - **I Corinthians 12:18**
- I will protect the unity of my Church Body.
 - **Psalm 133:1**
- I will share the responsibility of my Church.
 - By praying for its growth.
 - **I Thessalonians 1:1-2**
 - By inviting the unchurched to attend with me.
 - **Luke 14:23**
 - By warmly welcoming those who visit our Church Family.
 - **Romans 15:7**
- I will support the testimony of my Church Family.
 - By attending faithfully.
 - **Hebrews 10:23-25**
 - By living a godly life.

- **II Peter 3:10-12**
- By giving regularly.
 - **I Corinthians 16:2**

Will you:

- Accept God's placement in your Church Family?
- Protect the unity of your Church Family?
- Share in the responsibility of your Church Family?
- Support the testimony of your Church Family?