

# Personal Dedication

## Introduction

- A. **Reminder:** Personal dedication is not, first of all, a commitment to work harder at external conformity such as Church attendance, reading the Bible, prayer, etc. External change may come later — but it is not involved in the most important first step. Misunderstanding here will make personal dedication very difficult.
- B. **Provisional Definition:** Dedication is the total surrender of ourselves, as a person, to God as a Person, giving to Him the permission to do with us what He desires, opening up to Him all the areas of our life, inside and outside, giving up our control of these areas, and inviting Him into each area to change anything that He would want to change. Dedication is, therefore, a personal choice to give ourselves to God and to ask Him to set us apart, primarily for Himself, and for sacred use.

## I. Relevant Scripture

- A. The insufficiency of external conformity: Isaiah 1:11-18; 40:15,16; Amos 5:21-27; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 23:23; Romans 14:17.
- B. Passages of explanation: Isaiah 43:21-25; Mark 8:34-38; Romans 12:1,2; I Peter 1:13,14.

## II. Explanatory Comments

### A. Isaiah 43:21-25 -

1. The basis for dedication, V21 — Why did God create you?
2. The complaint regarding dedication, Vs 22-24 — What does He want from you?
3. The provision regarding dedication, V25 — Any barriers between you and God?

### B. Mark 8:34,35 -

1. The invitation to discipleship: "Whosoever will come after me

2. The requirements for discipleship:
  - a. "Let him deny himself" (From what are we to deny ourselves?)
  - b. "Let him take up his cross" (What does the cross mean to you personally?)
  - c. "Let him follow Me" (What does it mean to "follow Him"?)

C. Romans 12:1,2:

1. The basis of dedication: "The mercies of God."
2. The explanation of dedication: "Present our bodies as a living sacrifice."
3. The results of dedication: "Holy, acceptable, a reasonable service."
4. The instruction in dedication:
  - a. "Be not conformed to the world"
  - b. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind"
  - c. "Prove the good, acceptable, perfect will of God"

Victor Matthews

# A Prayer for Personal Dedication

(Please use this prayer each day for a week. And, then pray it again once a month. It may be helpful to also use the **Daily Affirmation** occasionally as a guide for your devotions.)

Heavenly Father, I come to worship You and to surrender myself to You. And I come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that in Him, You have forgiven and accepted me. I thank You for Your loving kindness and mercy.

I recognize that You are worthy of all the glory, honor, and praise that I could give to You. I want to live in such a way that You would receive the glory of which You are worthy. My deepest desire is to love You and worship You through all the areas of my life.

I come to You in faith and ask you to work in my life. Without Your help I confess that my surrender to You will always be with some sinful reservation. My desire is to be free, completely free, from being double-minded, dishonest, and hypocritical. Please humble me and convict me in all the areas where You know I need help.

In every way I know how, I surrender myself to You. I surrender every facet of my life within and without to You. Please receive me. I give myself and all I have to You.

I ask you to look into my past. If there is something there that I have not made right with You, I ask for Your conviction and humbling. I want nothing in my life that would displease You.

In response to Your Word of invitation, wherein You say, "I stand at the door and knock," I choose to open the door and invite You into the hidden depth of my life. I ask You to come into the secret recesses of my mind, my memory, my will, my emotions, and my bodily desires. Change me in any way you desire.

I surrender all my possessions to You. I choose to surrender all my social relationships to You. I give You my future and all my plans and desires for the future. Please make me aware of whatever may not be pleasing to You in these areas.

I humbly ask you, as a decision of faith, to enter fully into my life. I give up all my control over my life. Teach me how to live under Your control in all the areas of my life.

Please set me apart from anything that would not honor You. I choose to dedicate myself to You, and do so, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Victor Matthews