



Discipleship on Consecration

Soon after salvation, the believing child or young person needs to be taught about the importance in making a once-for-all decision about who will be the boss of his life. Inside the heart of each Believer, a battle is going on for this number one position; a battle between Satan, his old sinful and selfish nature, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Teaching him about the importance of *consecration* will help him to make the second most important decision in his life (after salvation), that of consecration.

I. Definition of Consecration

Consecration is a once-for-all giving of yourself and all that you have for the worship, obedience, and service of God. It is recognizing that He is the rightful owner and ruler of your life.

II. Biblical Examples of Consecration

This definition comes from a study of both the Old and New Testaments.

A. There are many examples in the Old Testament of people and things being set apart for the worship or service of God:

- *Aaron and his family were set apart as priests, with Aaron being the first high priest (Numbers 3:3)
- *The whole tribe of Levi was set apart as the priests who represented the people before God and offered up their sacrifices (Numbers 8:14)
- *The "Nazarite vow" was an act of consecration of a person for a specified period of time, or sometimes for a lifetime (Numbers 6:2; Judges 13:7; 1 Samuel 1:28; Luke 1:15)
- *The tabernacle was formally consecrated to God (Exodus 40; Numbers 7:1)
- *The altar was formally consecrated for sacrifices only to the true living God, Yahweh (Numbers 7:84,88)
- *Solomon's temple was formally consecrated (1 Kings 8:63)



B. An Old Testament example of personal consecration which illustrates the New Testament call for consecration (Deut. 15:12-18)

There was a special ceremony designated in Old Testament times, which pictures what the call to consecration is about. Slavery was a reality in the Old Testament world, and the people of God could possess slaves. However, they were commanded by God to take good care of them. Regardless of the reason for a person's slavery (poverty, war, etc.), the Law of God released him or her from slavery on the year of Jubilee (every seven years). However, it was possible for a slave to voluntarily choose to remain a slave under his benevolent master. Deuteronomy 15:16,17 explains the reasons some might choose to do this, as well as the ceremony they needed to go through if that was the slave's desire:

*"And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because **he loves you**, and your house, since he **prospers with you**, then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also, to your female servant you shall do likewise."*



In other words, though the slave was free to go, he willfully chose to remain as a slave to his master because of love for the master and because the master had been so good to the slave.

This is a picture of the call to consecration for the New Testament Believer. Christ has redeemed us from slavery to sin (1 Cor. 6:20; Gal. 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9; Titus 2:14), but the Believer can willfully choose to now become the slave of Christ. According to the Apostle Paul, this is a very reasonable thing to do, considering all that Christ has done for him (Rom. 12:1). Paul and the other apostles unashamedly referred to themselves as “bond slaves of Jesus Christ” (Acts 4:29; Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1, Titus 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1). You should be willing too!

III. Key Verses on Consecrating One's Life

A. Romans 12:1



"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

- ◆ What is the meaning of “beseech”? →
- ◆ What is the meaning of “brethren”? →
- ◆ What are some of the “mercies of God”? →

- ◆How can you “present your body”? →
- ◆What does it mean for you to be a “living sacrifice”? →
- ◆How can you be “holy and acceptable” to God →
- ◆Why is this your “reasonable service”? →

B. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

- ◆How is your body a “temple of the Holy Spirit”? →
- ◆What does it mean that “you are not your own”? →
- ◆How and when were you “bought with a price”? →
- ◆How can you “glorify God in your body and in your spirit”? →

C. Matthew 16:24



"Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

- ◆How are you supposed to “deny yourself”? →
- ◆What does it mean for you to “take up your cross”? →
- ◆How can you follow Jesus? →

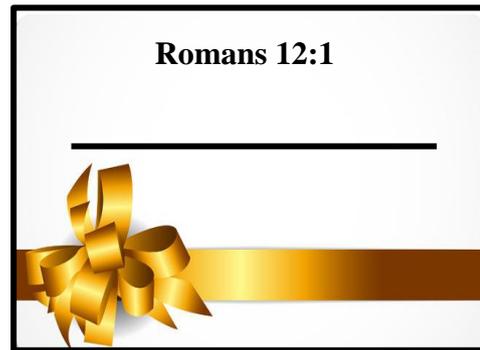
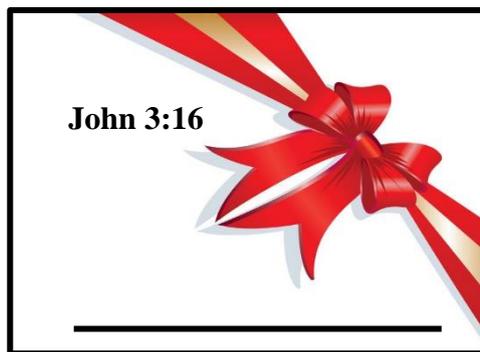
IV. How to Teach About Consecration

There are different ways to teach about consecration. You can use one of the specific verses given earlier about consecration to explain each of the following questions (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

- ◆What is consecration?
- ◆Who can consecrate themselves?
- ◆What is the basis for consecration?
- ◆What exactly are you consecrating to God?
- ◆How can you consecrate yourself to God today?

Another way is to explain the “two gifts” that God’s Word speaks about:

A. The Bible Speaks about Two Important Gifts



B. God’s Gift to You

John 3:16 →

How can you receive it? →

- ♥ Admit _____
- ✝ Believe Jesus _____
- ♥ Call for Him to _____

C. What Else Comes with This Gift?

◆John 3:16 →

◆Ephesians 1:3 →

◆Acts 10:43 →

◆John 1:12 →

◆John 14:2 →

◆1 Peter 1:4,5 →

◆1 Cor. 6:19 →

 NOTE: Have you received this gift?

D. Your Gift to God

Romans 12:1 →

E. What is Consecration?

Consecration is a once-for-all giving of yourself and all you have for the worship, obedience, and service of God. It is recognizing that He is the rightful owner and ruler of your life.

F. Who Can Consecrate their Lives?

“Brethren” = _____

G. Why Should You Consecrate Yourself?

You should consecrate yourself because of “the mercies of God.” These are all the things God did for you when He gave you eternal life”



H. What are You Consecrating to God?

Based on God's mercies to you, He is asking for a gift from you. He wants you to *present your bodies a living sacrifice . . . to God*. This means:



1. That you are to give Him your body (you) as long as you are alive. This is a once-for-all giving of yourself to Him, and not just for a day, a week, a month, or a year.
2. It includes all you have or ever hope to have:
 - *All of your problems (now and in the future)
 - *All of your hopes and dreams (college, marriage, job, etc.)
 - *All of your possessions (toys, money, clothes, etc.)

You are giving them all to God for Him to use however He wants. This shows that you trust God to use them in the best way. He has the right to give you more or take away what you have now because He knows what is best for you.

I. How Can You Consecrate Yourself?

Draw a circle and step into it. Present your body to God in prayer. "*Dear God, I give you . . .*"

- ***My eyes**--meaning I only want to use these eyes to look at things that please God. I do not want them to look at pictures, read books, watch TV programs, or view internet sites that God would not want me to. Rather, I want to look at things God approves of.
- ***My ears**--meaning I don't want to listen to things God does not want me listening to--such as bad words, bad jokes, bad stories, or music that encourages me to think about and do what God says is wrong.
- ***My mouth**--meaning I should not use my lips to say bad words, tell lies, gossip, scream at people or say something that hurts someone else. Instead, I want to use it to say good things and witness to others.
- ***My hands**--meaning I do not want to use them to do anything God does not like. I want to use them to do what God would want me to do.
- ***My feet**—meaning I do not want my feet to take me to places God would not approve of

J. Invite the Child or Young Person to Consecrate His Life to God

After you have shared the teaching above on consecration, you want to give this Believer an opportunity to do this. Tell him to say a prayer like the following. Offer to help him if he wants. If he is not ready to pray this now, give him a copy of this prayer to take with him so he can think about it. Encourage him to do it soon.

Will you consecrate yourself to God?

A Prayer of Consecration

Next to choosing Jesus as your Savior from sin, this is the next most important decision. If you have not yet done it, will you do it today? Just pray this prayer to God and mean it with all your heart. He will hear and accept your gift of yourself to Him. Now pray. . .

"Heavenly Father, I now give myself to You. Take my eyes . . . my ears . . . my mouth . . . my hands . . . my feet, all my possessions, my hopes, and future possessions. Help me to use them in ways pleasing to You. Help me to keep my body holy and fully pleasing to You so that I can do Your will for my life every day. I am Yours forever!"

Signed _____ Date _____

**Put this prayer in your Bible to remind you of your promise to God*

Commit yourself to remain "holy and acceptable to God"

To be **holy** means to keep yourself set apart from sin and set part for God by doing what is acceptable to Him. That means that this decision affects all future decisions. No longer should you base your decisions on what **you** want to do. Choose things that are holy and acceptable to God. Start each day by asking Him to guide you throughout the day to make the choices that would best please Him.

After you have consecrated yourself to God, you should try to please Him every day. But when you choose to think, say, or do something that is not pleasing to God, you do **not** have to rededicate yourself to God. Consecration is a once-for-all giving of yourself for the worship and service of God. When you sin, He does not disown you, but rather He wants you to confess that sin to God as 1 John 1:9 tells you to do. After confessing your sin to God, remind yourself that God is still the boss of your life. Ask God to help you to understand and submit to His will in every area of your life.

IV. Ways to Teach About Consecration

A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

1. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son
2. The dedication of Aaron and the Levites
3. Hannah dedicates Samuel
4. Daniel taken to Babylon (Daniel 1)
- 5.
- 6.



B. Through Special Lessons

1. Missionary story of Jim Elliot
2. Missionary story of Hudson Taylor
3. Lesson of the two gifts
(John 3:16; Rom: 12:1,2)
- 4.
- 5.



C. Through Music 🎵

1. He is Lord, He is Lord
2. I have Decided to Follow Jesus
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

D. Through Making and Using a Counseling Tool about Consecration

1. This tool can be made small enough to use with believing children in one-on-one situations.
2. This tool can be made large enough to use before an entire class.