Romans 12:1-2  I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
What God Wants!

Romans 12:1-2 NIV

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:1-2 KJV

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

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
What God Wants!

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.
What God Wants!
What God Wants!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY
Consecration is the act of setting apart or dedicating oneself to God.

Consecration is our giving ourselves to the Lord to become “a living sacrifice,“

Consecration means “the separation of oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one’s relationship with a perfect God.”

Consecration also carries the connotation of sanctification, holiness, or purity. It is the total dedication of all you are and all you have and all you will become to God without holding anything back.
What God Wants!

God has always been calling man to Consecration,

He called Moses

He called Joshua

Joshua 3:5 Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

Jesus called his disciples,

Paul called the believers,

God is still calling us today to a life of consecration.
WHY would we give God what He wants?

(until we understand WHY, the WHAT and HOW don’t matter to us)
There are many sides of God’s mercy in our lives ("mercies" is a plural word) ...

Psalm 51:1 – “tender mercies”
Psalm 89:1 – “I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever”
Psalm 106:45 – “multitude of his mercies”
Isaiah 54:7 – “great mercies”
Isaiah 55:3 – “sure mercies”

It is only because of God’s mercy that you and I are breathing, moving, thinking, and worshipping right now! He has many mercies!
Psalm 103:11-12

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
Once we understand WHY we would consider giving God what He wants, Here’s WHAT God wants from us ...
What God Wants!

Present your bodies (not just your spirit for an hour on Sunday, but your everyday life, your body, every minute you live) …

This is the act of consecration.

The New Living Translation states, “When you think of what he [God] has done for you, is this too much to ask?”
What God Wants!

(1) This act is voluntary—present. This is what we do when we give a present to someone. We don’t give someone a present because we are forced to give it, but because we want to give it.

(2) This act is personal—your bodies.

(3) This act is sacrificial—a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.
What God Wants!

- A living sacrifice (the problem with living sacrifices is that they can choose to crawl off the altar!)

- Romans 12:1b (MSG) Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.
What God Wants!

- **Holy** (set apart, separated, sanctified)

- 2 Corinthians 6:17 (MSG)  So leave the corruption and compromise; leave it for good, says God. Don't link up with those who will pollute you. I want you all for myself.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
What God Wants!

Acceptable unto God (God’s idea of holiness, not yours!)

Proverbs 21:3 (KJV)  To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent, logical) service ... WHAT?! (that doesn’t make sense to the natural mind)
1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
What God Wants!

I CAN’T CONFORM TO THAT! That’s exactly right, you can’t. In fact, no one can, because conforming is not God’s process, it is the world’s process. God’s process is transforming. That’s HOW God gets what He wants!
BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD. The word “conformed” in this verse means “to mold one thing into the shape of another.” It refers to things that are temporary and unstable. This word could not be used of inward change, merely outward change.

**Romans 12:2 (NLT)** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world …

**Romans 12:2 (NJB)** Do not model your behaviour on the contemporary world …
What God Wants!

BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. The word “transformed” in this verse means “to undergo a complete change or metamorphosis.” It refers to a process of the Spirit that results in permanent change to the character and conduct. This word is not used of mere outward change, but of real inward change that shows itself on the outside. (i.e. butterfly)

Romans 12:2 (NCV) Be changed within by a new way of thinking ...

Romans 12:2 (MSG) You'll be changed from the inside out …
What God Wants!

Colossians 3:5-15

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.
10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
What God Wants!

13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
What God Wants!

HOW DOES GOD TRANSFORM YOU? By the renewing of your mind, by changing the way you think. And only you can allow this. We call it REPENTANCE.
What God Wants!

To change your life, YOU MUST CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK. Behind everything you do is a thought. Every behavior is motivated by a belief, and every action is prompted by an attitude. Repentance goes even further – you repent whenever you change the way you think BY ADOPTING HOW GOD THINKS. That, and that alone, is repentance – it involves the will much more than the emotions.
What God Wants!

- **Proverbs 4:23 (TEV)** Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

- **Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)** There must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.

- **Philippians 2:5 (CEV)** Think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:
What God Wants!

Two parts to having the mind of Christ:
Stop thinking immature (selfish) thoughts

1 Corinthians 14:20 (NIV)  Stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Romans 8:5 (NCV)  Those who live following their sinful selves think only about things that their sinful selves want.
What God Wants!

Start thinking mature (selfless) thoughts.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (MSG)  Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.
Jesus replied, "You are wrong, because you lack the wisdom of God. When I was a child, I talked like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned like a child. But when I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)
Many of our troubles occur because we base our choices on unreliable authorities:

- Culture (everyone is doing it)
- Tradition (we’ve always done it that way)
- Reason (it seemed logical)
- Emotion (it just felt right)
What God Wants!

What God Wants
Is YOU,
All of YOU.
Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.