

Likely, you have heard the frequently used proverbial phrase, “GIVING IT UP FOR JESUS.” This is a very biblical principle: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove [“prove” by *doing* it; testing, experiencing, practicing, *applying* it] what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2) [‘sacrifice’, ‘service’, i.e. *giving it up*; ‘unto God’ & ‘will of God’, i.e. it is ‘*for God*’]. These scriptures and this phrase both affirm a *purpose* that whatever we are doing, we should be doing it to fulfill the will of God; of Jesus.

Christians may all too often treat this scriptural affirmation merely as a platitude, but leave it unapplied or misapplied. Like most idioms, it is a bit obscure on exactly how to perform within any specific context or situation.

Christians are not meant to be spiritual ‘meat heads’ who read Scripture without engaging it or use proverbs to support imprudent or unreasonable behaviors. We are not to become such literalists that we substitute some reckless and superficial interpretations of how to ‘act out’ Christianity that result in unnecessary offences and injuries to those around us, by behaving unlike Jesus, in the name of Jesus.

This three-part series will help assist those *trying* to apply it, yet through misunderstanding, *misapply* it. Next week’s contribution will examine correct and incorrect *applications* of “Giving it up for Jesus.”

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