

A photograph of a simple stone altar with a rectangular top and a single pillar, set within a circular stone-walled enclosure. The ground is dirt and the walls are made of rough-hewn stones.

# ALTARS

*“I lay down my life”*



Today

A call to courageous Christianity

**ALTARS**

## *Romans 12:1*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**ALTARS**

**Key terms**

**ALTARS**



Racism is behavior rooted  
in the combination of  
prejudice and power

ALTARS

Systemic describes  
imbedded attitudes and  
behaviors in social, civil and  
institutional structures

**A L T A R S**

The most widely and deeply  
imbedded of all attitudes  
and behaviors is *SIN*.

**A L T A R S**



**I. A courageous Christian  
embraces the fact of God's new  
humanity.**

**A L T A R S**



# Ephesians 2:14-17

**A L T A R S**

**14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.**



**II. A courageous Christian  
regularly asks God to examine  
her/his heart**

**A L T A R S**

# **Psalms 139:23-24**

**A L T A R S**



**Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious  
thoughts. See if there is any offensive  
way in me, and lead me in the way  
everlasting.**

**A L T A R S**

# Recent mile markers on my Journey

**A L T A R S**



**III. A courageous Christian  
confesses her/his sin, whether of  
commission or omission**

**A L T A R S**

**1 John 1:9**

**A L T A R S**



If we confess our sins, he is  
faithful and just and will  
forgive us our sins and  
purify us from all  
unrighteousness.

**A L T A R S**

**IV. A courageous Christian  
recommits to a passionate pursuit  
of discipleship.**

**A L T A R S**



**John 21:22**

**ALTARS**

Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

**A L T A R S**



**The courageous disciple**

**ALTARS**

- Initiate with people who are not like you
- Ask them to tell you their story of struggle and pain.
- Tell them your story as appropriate.
- Find ways to do life together.
- Enjoy your New Humanity!

**A L T A R S**



A photograph of a simple, rectangular stone altar standing in front of a rustic stone wall. The wall is constructed from irregular, light-colored stones. The ground is a mix of dirt and small stones. The altar is made of a single piece of stone with a flat top and a slightly wider base.

# ALTARS

*“I lay down my life”*