

**Transformational Community**  
Romans 12:1-8

**YOU HAVE A VITAL PART TO  
PLAY (Rom. 12:4-8)**

**(v.4) Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, In the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another**

**(v.6-8) According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the standard of one's faith; 7 if service, in service; if teaching, in teaching;**

**8 if exhorting, in exhortation;  
giving, with generosity;  
leading, with diligence;  
showing mercy, with  
cheerfulness.**

**Why You Have a Vital Part to  
Play in Cultivating A  
Transformative Community:**

**1. You've been given a gift (at least one!)**

**2. You have one primary (but not  
motivational gift**



**3. The more you step into  
your gift, the more you'll  
discover the good works that  
God has prepared for you to  
walk into (Eph 2:10)**

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**We will never be perfect people; but imperfect people committed to a radical Spirit-empowered love can change their relationships and their world”.**

**—Adele Calhoun, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook**

**THE MINDSET THAT GETS IN  
THE WAY (v.2-3)**

**(v.2) Do not be conformed to  
this age, but be transformed  
by the renewing of your mind**

THE MINDSET THAT GETS IN  
**“Don’t become so well  
adjusted to your culture that  
you fit into it without even  
thinking” (MSG)** transformed  
by the renewing of your mind

**These limiting mindsets  
include:**

- a) God is Not Good**
- b) I'm too Good**
- c) I'm no good.**

## **God Is Not Good (v.2)**

**Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God...**



**God looks just like Jesus.  
God has always looked like  
Jesus.  
There has never been a time  
that God wasn't like Jesus.  
We haven't always known  
this, but now we do.**

**I'm too Good (v.3)**

God looks just like Jesus.

**For by the grace given to me,  
I tell everyone among you not  
to think of himself more  
highly than he should think.  
Instead, think sensibly, as  
God has distributed a  
measure of faith to each one.**

**I'm No Good (v.3)**

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**Introjection—refers to millions of film footage we take in growing up the first 10-15 years.**

**Meta (to change) + noieo (the mind, our “thinker”). “To repent” literally means “to change the way you think”.**

**Only Mercy can change your  
mindset**

**(v.1) Therefore, brothers, by  
the mercies of God...**

**I urge you to present your  
bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God; this  
is your spiritual worship**

**Our minds are renewed by  
learning to rest in God's  
mercy**



**Hebrews 10:4-7 (C.f. Ps. 40:6)**  
**For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Therefore, as He was coming into the world, He said: You did not want sacrifice and offering, but You prepared a body for Me.**

**6 You did not delight in whole burnt offerings and sin offerings.7 Then I said, “See— it is written about Me in the volume of the scroll— I have come to do Your will, God!”**

**Luke 18:9-14**

**Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: 10 “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax**

**11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer[b]: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people —cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’**

**13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’**

**14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

**So then, since we have a  
great High Priest who has  
entered heaven, Jesus the  
Son of God, let us hold firmly  
to what we believe.**

**15 This High Priest of ours  
understands our weaknesses,  
for he faced all of the same  
testings we do, yet he did not  
sin.**



**16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.**

**Weekly Challenge: Choose one of the “one anothers” — “love one another,” “serve one another,” “pray for one another,” “forgive one another” — Practice living one particular “one another” every day for a week.**

**What is this practice like for  
you?**

**The Jesus prayer="Lord  
Jesus, Son of God have  
mercy on me a sinner."**

**Have I been impatient and irritable? Have I been self-absorbed, indifferent, and inattentive to people?**

**Repent like this: Consider the free grace of Jesus until there is (a) no coldness or unkindness, as I think of the sacrificial love of Christ for me,**

**(b) no impatience, as I think of his patience with me, and (c) no indifference, as I think of how God is infinitely attentive to me. I reflect on free grace until I show warmth and affection.**

**The Weekly Practice/** I think of  
**Challenge: Self-Examination**  
**and Repentance** as I think of  
**In the presence of God ask** ve  
**for light to pierce your** grace  
**defenses.** w warmth and  
affection.



- **Then ask yourself, Who have I injured recently through thoughtlessness, neglect, anger and so on?**
- **As the Holy Spirit brings people to mind, confess your feelings about these people to God.**

**Ask God to forgive you and if need be to give you grace to forgive them.**

- **Write an apology, make a phone call or confess out loud in an attempt to put the relationship back on track.**

**Adapted from Adele Calhoun,  
Spiritual Disciplines**