



God is passionate about you! He wants to meet you right where you are, and transform you by His Spirit living inside of you. In Romans 12, the Apostle Paul calls us to bring our whole selves to God and let Him shape our lives, change the ways we act and think, drawing us into His loving family. Here are some questions from Paul, and practical suggestions for allowing God to shape us:

SELF-ASSESS We need to see ourselves accurately, through God's reality, and give Him permission to change us.

1. Do I think too much of myself, or think that I know it all? Do I think too little of myself and devalue myself in my own eyes?
2. Do I know how God made me, and the gifts that He has given me by His Spirit? (A good place to start is www.therealyou.org)
3. **ACTION** - What can I do to disrupt any self-centeredness in me today? Can I intentionally slow down to negate my busyness? Can I do something to humble myself and see myself as God sees me?

OTHERS-FOCUS God wants to connect us to one another in His Body, and teach us to extend His life-changing love to others.

1. Am I living in harmony with others and putting in the effort to truly love people, especially others in the body of Christ?
2. Am I using God's gifts of the Spirit on behalf of others in loving service?
3. What holds me back? Frustration... busyness... apathy?
4. **ACTION** - Who are "ordinary people" in my life - those easily overlooked, or as Jesus sometimes called them, the "least of these?" How can I engage and love them and lift them up like Jesus? How can I honor someone in my life today? Who do I know that I can cheer on and celebrate today, or be present with them as they celebrate? Who in my life is hurting today, and how can I be present with them... caring to know what they need and letting them know that I am there for them?

COUNTER-FORMATION We have all been shaped by our World, but as followers of Jesus, we let God re-shape us as He created us to be.

1. Am I coming to Him as a living sacrifice and letting Him change the way I think and act according to His Ways and His Word?
2. Realizing that the expectations of Jesus are vastly different than the ways of the world, will I step out in faith? Am I willing to be known as His follower?
3. **ACTION** - Who can I pray for and actually bless (in word or deed) that has offended or simply upset me? How can I respond in the opposite spirit? As conflict happens, how can I follow Jesus' ways as far as it depends on me?

Remember, none of this is possible in our strength, but with God all things are possible! As we move in faith, He promises to empower us by His Spirit!