

# The Deep Work of a New Creation

**Mark Labberton**

Romans 12:1-12  
November 12, 2023.

**Introduction:** This week, UPC welcomes Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton to our pulpit. Dr. Labberton is certainly no stranger to UPC. He served on UPC's staff twice, received his sense of call to ministry while at UPC, was under the care of UPC while in seminary and was ordained at UPC in 1982. He became the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California in 1993 where he served for sixteen years. In 2009, Dr. Labberton joined the faculty of Fuller Theological Seminary as Professor of Preaching and Director of the Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute of Preaching. From 2013 through 2022 he served as the fifth president of Fuller Seminary. Dr. Labberton is also a gifted writer, author of four books and a sought-after speaker internationally. He is happily married to Janet Morrison Labberton.

**Prayer:** Holy God, Give us wisdom to understand what you are speaking to us through this scripture and through each other. Amen

**Review:** How did you see Jesus more clearly this week?

**Read:** Romans 12:1-12

**Discussion:**

1. How do you define worship? How do you worship? What sacrifices do you make to worship with your church family?
2. In what ways are you tempted to conform to the world system? How are these ways in opposition to the values Paul lists in this passage?
3. How does the world reward thinking highly of yourself? How does your opinion of yourself affect your interactions with the members of your church community?
4. Which gifts listed in this passage have you been given to use for the body? What opportunities has God given you to use them? How has God used the exercise of these gifts to mature you?
5. Which of the markers of living as God's new creation (Verses 9-12) do you see in your life? With which do you struggle?

**Application:** Ask God to show how he is creating new life in you and through you.

**Prayer:** God of all Creation, teach us how to live as your new creation with our fellow members of your body. Amen.