

Real Change

Part 10

Knowing others according to the flesh
2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 5: 14 – 17, 21

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.....

....For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

2 Corinthians 5: 16

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

Regard: to see; to know

To pay attention to

Flesh: Sarx

Sarx: a physical body

Sarx: the animal nature with cravings which incite to sin. This is an inadequate definition

There is no “*sin nature*” (poor translation)

The flesh is how I learned to live independent of God (my flesh), my default position

This concept of the flesh makes change possible

Flesh: understanding leads to change

We have hard wired desires, including love, gaining acceptance and avoiding rejection

The ways and patterns by which you have attempted to get all your needs supplied instead of seeking Christ first and trusting him to meet your needs.

Gillham: *Lifetime Guarantee*

My flesh is how I make life work, how I get ahead, gain acceptance, avoid rejection

Two ways to live: Spirit and flesh

The flesh is a way to think, a way to walk

The flesh works against the Spirit

The flesh encourages self effort (Gal. 3: 3)

The flesh seeks identity and purpose

We choose to put confidence in our flesh

Andrew Farley: *The Naked Gospel*

My flesh is uniquely mine, it seems right to
me, everyone else's is wrong

Know no one according to the flesh

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 2 Cor. 5: 16

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

We know each other according to our
flesh

My flesh views your flesh

My flesh decides if you are going to help me
make life work, help me get ahead

We assume our judgment is right

Example: the good looking guy at the front
“the poser”

Who I project I am, who I believe I am inside

Who are we really?

Who am I?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

I am a new creation

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I am righteous

I am righteous

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus,
who became to us wisdom from God,
righteousness and sanctification and
redemption

1 Corinthians 1: 30

And be found in him, not having a
righteousness of my own that comes from
the law, but that which comes through faith
in Christ, the righteousness from God that
depends on faith

Philippians 3: 9

I am Righteous

To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4: 22

I am righteous

I am holy

I am Holy

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 1 Thessalonians 4: 7

I am holy

Do you not know that you are God's temple
and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

For God's temple is holy, and you are that
temple. 1 Corinthians 3: 16, 17

He chose us in him before the foundation of
the world, that we should be holy and
blameless before him. Ephesians 1: 4

To present you holy and blameless and above
reproach before him Colossians 1: 22

Adopted as sons

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ

Romans 8: 14 - 17

Adopted as sons

so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4: 5, 6

You have to be a son to be an heir
for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God,
through faith. For as many of you as were
baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is
neither slave nor free, there is no male and
female, for you are all one in Christ
Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are
Abraham's offspring, heirs according to
promise. Galatians 3: 26 - 29

Actual or positional

We would say that we are actually the sons
and daughters of God

But we are positionally righteous and holy
Christ coloured glasses

Does it matter?

Who am I

I am a new creation

I am righteous

I am holy

I am a son / daughter by birth and adoption

I am an heir

How are we to see others?

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 2 Cor. 5: 16

I am a new creation, righteous, holy, a son / daughter of the King, an heir of God, and so are my brothers and sisters in Christ

How?

How do I quit viewing others through my flesh

I can't

Jesus can, He can look through our eyes

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer

I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And

the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in

the Son of God

Galatians 2: 20

How did Jesus view people?

C.S. Lewis: *The Weight of Glory*

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship.....

.....There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.