

Extreme Makeover: Gospel Edition

April 16, 2023

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

¹⁶ *So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*

1. What is a “worldly” or “according to the flesh” POV? (16a)
 - a. Evaluating, categorizing, stereotyping, ranking
 - i. **Performance**—what you do or produce?
 - ii. Appearance—what you look like?
 - iii. Affinity—what **friends** you hang out with?
 - b. A worldly POV always is too low or too high (Rom. 12:3)
 - i. Too low? Remember, we are dearly **loved**
 - ii. Too high? Remember, we are deeply **flawed**
 - c. We don’t use a worldly POV in the church, do we?
2. How do we think about Christ? (16b)
 - a. Taking a worldly POV about Christ
 - i. **Teacher** and wonder worker (John 3:2)
 - ii. A **prophet** (John 4:19 and Luke 24:19)
 - iii. A religious mutt, of uncertain parentage (John 8:48)
 - iv. Seen as a **mere** man (John 9:28-29)
 - b. A spiritual POV about Christ (Matt. 16:16)

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, Behold! the new is here!*

3. To be “in Christ” is to be a Christian, His **disciple** (17)
Used 83 times by the apostle Paul in his letters
4. Extreme makeover: gospel edition—a new you!
 - a. The old has passed away, never to **return**
 - b. Behold! The new has come, ever to **remain**

On Your Own (better with others)

1. From today’s sermon, what insight, observation or principle did you find helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. READ Philippians 3:4-10. What was the worldly POV that Paul used before he met Jesus (see 3:4-7)? What was Paul’s POV after he met Jesus (see 3:7-10)?
3. READ James 2:1-9. What is the worldly POV that James is against in the church (see 2:1-4)? What is the POV that James says should characterize our gatherings (see 2:5-9)?
4. How much of the division in our world today is due to judging others from a worldly POV? How can the church be different?
5. How can the church be more Christ-centered in our POV of Him and others?
6. When did Christ make you a “new creation?” Can you remember some of the old things that have passed away? How are you becoming ‘ever new’ in Him?
7. READ Genesis 1:31; Psalm 33:6; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3; 1 Peter 1:23. Compare God’s creative work in making the universe with making a Christian in 2 Cor. 5:17. Which is more amazing? Powerful? Life changing?