

Week 8 – Handout (5:16) Regard no one from a worldly point of view

Text

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 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.

Observations

- There is a universal aspect to this section. The phrase “all died (v. 14),” “died for all (v. 15),” and “regard no one (v. 16).” All of these point to the fact that Christ’s death/resurrection had an impact on ALL people, not just those who accept Him.
- There is a specific aspect to this section. A distinction is made between “all died” and “those who live.”

Delving Deeper

- Word translated “worldly” in v. 16 is “flesh”, so perhaps a better translation would be “Therefore, from now on we regard no one according to flesh, even though we once knew Christ according to flesh, we don’t know him that way any longer.”

Lexicon of Paul’s Thought’s

Flesh – σαρξ

(1) Neutral Descriptions

- Physical matter (e.g. 1 Cor 15:39) – stars, planets, people
- Human Body (e.g. 1 Cor 6:16)
- Human Race (e.g. Gal 2:16)
- Genealogy (e.g. Rom 1:3f)

(2) Negative Comparisons

- Flesh vs. Spirit - Phil 3:3f
- Human ways vs. God’s ways - 1 Cor 1:26f –
- Rebellious human pursuits/values/thinking – Gen 2; Rom 1:21f. The rebellious attitude toward God. This is not a reference to an inherent aspect of humanity, nor to an inherent portion of the human self.

Classical vs. Modern Thought

- Modern psychological thinking often sees in this conflict an “ontological dualism” the idea that the self has different “natures” that fight against each other. These warring internal factions are then referred to as a “human nature” (associated with bodily desires, urges, etc.) and a “spiritual nature” (associated with our minds, attitudes, willpower, etc.) Paul did not have a divided view of Self.
- For Paul, the human creation was something good. Despite the fact that it was weak and easily diverted to defilement it was also redeemable and resurrectable. . The problem of human nature and spiritual nature creates an artificial duality that envisions the human self as consisting of warring factions of “body” and “spirit” which can unfortunately link with philosophical ideas to separate into “thoughts (mind, spirit)” against “body (desires, urges, etc). Paul does not believe in MIND over MATTER. Paul believes in GOD over SELF or SPIRIT over FLESH

The Central Conflict (Gal 3:1-5)

- Via Spirit vs. Via Flesh
- Via Flesh = reliance upon self confidence, self-will, accomplishments, independence, ability, etc. Finding “life” through the ideas common to human existence in libertine attitudes, philosophies, self-indulgent. “wisdom of the flesh”
- Via Spirit = reliance upon God’s Spirit, God’s will, God’s purposes, submission to God’s rule. Finding “life” in the rejection of self-will and the submission to God-will. “foolishness of God”
- Apocalyptic dualism – already living in the life we anticipate in the eternal

Two Horizons of Paul’s World

No Longer	Now / Already	Not Yet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 15:20f – “...Christ, the firstfruits...” • Eph 1:9-23 – “...he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times have reached their fulfillment...a seated him ..far above all rule and authority” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gal 3:26 – “You are all sons of God...” • Rom 5:6f – “Since we have now been....” • Rom 6:1f – “...If we have been....we will certainly also be” • Heb 10:24 – “He made perfect forever...” • Phil 1:3f – “...he who began a good work....will carry it to completion...” • Col 3:1f – “...you died and your life is hidden in Christ...” • Eph 2:1-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil 3:12f • Rom 8:18f

2 Cor 5:16 – Worldly Point of View

- How did the Corinthians view Paul from a worldly point of view?
- How did Paul view Christ from a worldly point of view?
- What has changed, how are things different now?