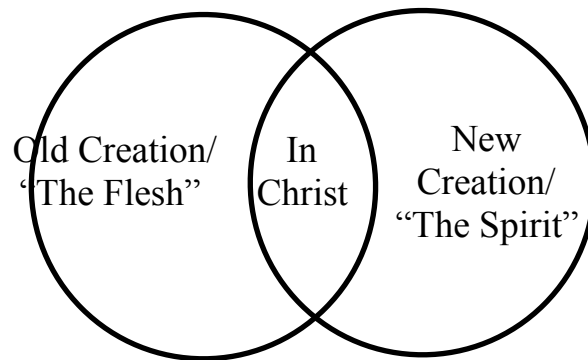


You Are Not in the Flesh (14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

Romans 8:9, 11-13—The Flesh and the Spirit

⁹ But *you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit*, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him... ¹¹ *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.* ¹² So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. (Romans 8:9, 11-13)

1. The Flesh (Greek *sarx*) = this fallen world of sin and death (Rom 8:8)
2. The Spirit (Greek *pneumatōs*) = the new creation of righteousness and life (Rom 8:8)



The Living Tradition

Thomas Aquinas: “He who raised up Jesus Christ from the dead shall enliven you’re your mortal bodies” [Rom 8:11]. He does not say “dead,” but “mortal,” because in the resurrection there will be taken away from our bodies not only that they are dead, i.e., having the necessity of death, but also that they are mortal, i.e., capable of dying, as was Adam’s body before sin. For after the resurrection our bodies will be wholly immortal: “your dead shall live, their bodies shall rise” (Isa 26:19).... (Aquinas, *Commentary on Romans* no. 630; trans. F. Larcher, O.P.)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. What does Paul mean by “flesh” and “spirit”? How are they different from “body” and “soul”?

2. According to Paul, what will our bodies be like in the Resurrection?

For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans*, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Volume 11 (ed. Philip Schaff; repr.; Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1994).