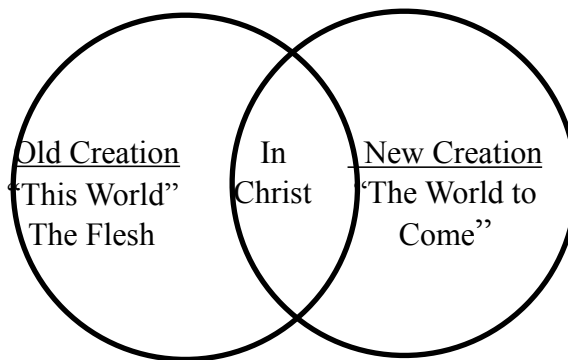


A New Creation in Christ
(12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, *we regard no one from a human point of view*; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ *Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.* (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

1. Jewish Eschatology: “this world” and “the world to come”:



2. The Flesh: literally, “according to the flesh” (Greek *ho sarx*) (5:16)

3. In Christ: participation in Christ (cf. Rom 6:3-6)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death*, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* ⁶ We know that *our old self* was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. (Rom 6:3-6)

The Living Tradition

Basil the Great: We find *three creations* mentioned in the Scripture; the first, the education from nonexistence into existence; the second, *the change from worse to better*; and the third, the resurrection of the dead. (Basil the Great, *Letters* 8; in G. Bray, p. 249)

John Chrysostom: We ought to live for Christ not just because we belong to him, not just

because he died for us and not just because he rose again on our behalf. We ought to live for him because *we have been made into something different. We now have a new life.* The old things which have passed away refer to our sins and impiety... (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on 2 Corinthians* 11:4 [trans *NPNF1* 12:332]).

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. What does Paul mean when he says that if anyone is “in Christ,” he is a “new creation”? How does a person participate “in Christ”?

For Further Reading

1. Bray, Gerald, ed. *1-2 Corinthians*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VII. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.