

We Know No Man After the Flesh

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"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more" (II Corinthians 5:16).

Paul is stating that the things so highly valued, the things of the flesh, are no longer a part of his conscious estimation of his fellow human beings in his daily encounters and consideration of them. He can only think of his fellow human beings as those for whom Christ died and who, regardless of the many distinctions constantly imposed upon human attitudes and relationships in the realm of the flesh, have all been brought into the common bond of the state of death due to the work of Christ.

All are the same in the state of death. There is no difference between rich and poor, high and low (financially, socially, educationally), Israelite and Gentile, "red, yellow, black and white," Caucasian and Oriental, descendant of a *Mayflower Pilgrim* and offspring of an African slave. It is a view sorely needed today in a world so full of strife, bitterness, and contention among individuals, groups, and nations on the basis of race, or ancestry, or national identity.

I daresay there is no greater force for a compassionate, unifying outlook upon all peoples than the realization that, in giving Himself up in death, the Lord Jesus Christ embraced all humanity to Himself and all are reckoned to have died in Him. Certainly God's people should be in the vanguard of developing attitudes and measures that reach out in love and concern for all peoples, reflecting the love of Christ in the giving of Himself.

Be Reconciled to God, p. 14.

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