2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Seeing with new eyes

1. We behold people in new ways, 16. Regard no one according to the flesh.
   1. From now on, therefore (cf. vv. 14-15)
      1. Since Christ died for all
      2. Since I died with Christ
      3. Since I no longer live for myself, but for Him
   2. We view, value, appraise, know, respect
   3. Not based on mere physicality
      1. Philosophical Materialism
   4. Not based on worldly standards (cf. 12)
      1. Industry norms (1 Cor 4:8-13)
      2. Nationalism, Racism, and misguided religious zeal (Phil 3:4-8)
      3. Beauty, strength, and intelligence (1 Cor 1-4)
   5. We all began with this viewpoint, 16b
      1. Paul (Saul) probably had met Jesus
      2. By what standard do you evaluate Jesus?
   6. Expanded Christian Vision, 16c
      1. We no longer see half-men (16a)
      2. Because we have seen the Lord (16c)
   7. Regard *everything* according to the spirit
2. We are made new, 17
   1. If anyone… Will you come?
   2. Is in Christ. Union with Christ.
      1. Conversion. New Birth. Jn 3
      2. Acknowledge that God is telling you the truth
      3. Accept and Return His love
      4. Displace your idols
   3. New Creation
      1. New era when Christ died for all; new earth
      2. New creature in Christ; new person
   4. The old has passed away
      1. Old perspective is dead (16)
      2. Old master is defeated (1 Jn 3:8)
      3. Old destination is displaced (Rev 3:5; 20:15)
      4. Old way of life is despised (Eph 4-6)
   5. Behold! Things have become and will be new!
      1. New love, ambition, status, family, resources
      2. Rev 21-22

Discussion Questions:

1. When you look at other people, what do you see?
2. In what ways do people seek to measure Jesus by their own standards?
3. Describe the new creation brought about in Christ.
4. What would prohibit someone from being made new in Christ?