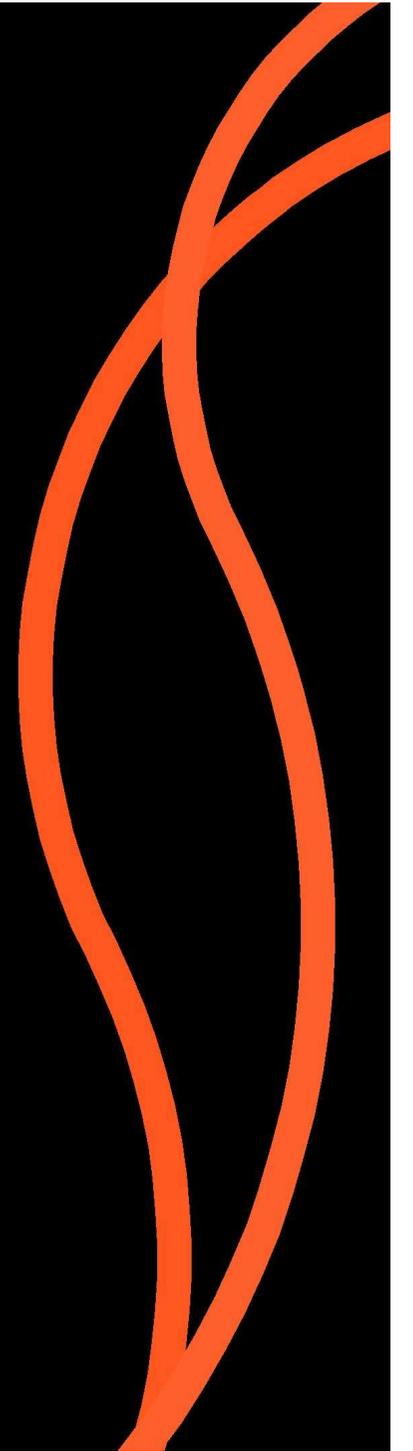


**not mere
mortals**
ross van Niekerk



a new command

the mark of disciples

john 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

refer: jn 17:20-22; eph 4:1-3

love

divine nature

2 peter 1:3-4

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...

he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature...

refer: jn 17:24; 1 jn 4:16-17

There are no ordinary people.
You have never talked to a mere mortal...
Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your
neighbor is the holiest object presented to
your senses. If he is your Christian
neighbour, he is holy in almost the same
way, for in him also Christ *vere latitat*, the
glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is
truly hidden.

C.S. Lewis, from The Weight of Glory

2 corinthians 5:14-17

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

regard no-one according to the flesh

1. ethnicity or social class.
2. appearance (wealth).
3. education.
4. vocation or upbringing.
5. past failures.

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

1: ethnicity or social class

1 corinthians 12:13

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

galatians 3:27-28

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ.

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

2: appearance (wealth)

james 2:1-4

My brothers, show no partiality...

For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet"...

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

2: appearance (wealth)

james 2:1-6

... have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

But you have dishonored the poor man...

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

3: education or status

1 corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

3: education or status

1 corinthians 1:26-31

...God chose what is low and despised in the world... so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

4: vocation or upbringing

matthew 13:53-58

Jesus... went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, and they were astonished and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son?" ... And they took offense at him...

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

4: vocation or upbringing

matthew 13:53-58

...But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”

And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

refer: john 8:15

regard no-one acc. to the flesh

5: past failures

galatians 1:13

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I [Paul] persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it...

romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

regard according to the spirit

1: discern the heart (character)

1 samuel 16:7

Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him.

For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.

regard according to the spirit

2: honour those who seem weaker

1 corinthians 12:20-26

As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor...

regard according to the spirit

2: honour those who seem weaker

1 corinthians 12:20-25

...But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

regard according to the spirit

3: start with self

judges 6:12-16

And the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor... Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"

And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest, and I am the least in my father's house."