



## Wednesday Prayer

Fourth Sunday in Lent – Radical Love of Self

**So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!  
2 Corinthians 5:17**

Paul was reminding the Christians of Corinth that to follow Christ is to change our lens, the perspective with which we see ourselves and the world. Turning away from the sinful, shaming perspective of the world and turning toward Jesus opens us to a new creation. God's love, shown through Jesus, is radical. It was and is a departure from traditional ideas that limit the value of people outside the boundaries set by culture. God's love is without boundaries or limits and is the deep foundation of the new life in Christ.

When we allow ourselves to be made new by God's radical love through Jesus, we can move ourselves and others toward radical self-love in the realization that our own selves are loved by God. This is far more significant than self-esteem or self-acceptance. Although God created us in God's image, our culture is a shaming culture that blinds people to their own value and dignity. Injustice is a further product of this shame. How we value and honor our bodies affects how we value and honor the bodies of others. In her book, *The Body is not an Apology*, Sonya Renee Taylor says,

*"Racism, sexism, ableism, homo-and transphobia, ageism and fatphobia are algorithms created by humans' struggle to make peace with the body... A radical self-love world is a world that works for every body." (p. 5)*

God's radical love through Jesus is foundational to our own awakening to the ways we've been indoctrinated to feel shame, and we can learn to become champions of all bodies. As we extend our self-love to welcome bodies of all colors, sexual orientations, sizes, shapes and ages in our congregations and communities, we participate in the transformation of the creation into a new creation that is just, equitable and compassionate, free from exploitation of others' bodies.

**Through Christ you make us a new creation, Oh God, for with Jesus, we pass from a life of sin and shame to a new creation of justice and compassion. Accept our prayers and welcome us to your table just as you welcome all bodies with your loving and grace-filled embrace. Amen.**

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*View our week four Lenten prayer, and share our [Lenten Prayer Series](#) with your church and others so we may keep all children and those who care for children in our prayers.*

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