Welcome to “Learning and Living the God-centered Life”

Carmel Baptist Church

The Doctrine of Regeneration

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Titus Chapter 3:3-7

- Titus 3:3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.
- Titus 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,
- Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- Titus 3:6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
The greatest problem of mankind is... SIN
But the problem of SIN has two aspects;

1. Mankind has a bad heart (Mark 7:21-23)
2. Mankind has a bad record (James 2:10)

In the first case man is defiled by “who he is”

In the second case man is condemned by “what he has done”

The bad heart deals with the internal (regeneration)
The bad record deals with the external (justification)
The last two weeks we have been studying justification.

Justification takes place in the courtroom of heaven, it is God who justifies.

Justification takes place outside of me and it involves my bad record.

God makes a declaration as a judge and He grounds that declaration in what has already been done. God isn't pretending that my sins have been paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ bore all our sins on the cross and the righteousness that He worked out in the sight of the law.

Galatians 3:10 "...“CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.” "
And so we can see two aspects to justification;
- One is the payment that Jesus made in full for our sins
- Two is the righteousness that He imputes to our account based on the perfect life that He lived

Justification take place in the courtroom of God in heaven

Justification is an act of God’s free grace, in which He pardons all our sins, accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.
Regeneration on the other hand, takes place on earth inside of me.

Definition of regeneration:

- This is a creative act of power that God does inside of me where God comes and does a creative work in the heart.

- Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us.

Question that often comes up in the doctrine of regeneration:

Does a person believe and then they are regenerated?

Or

Does a person get regenerated so they can believe?
1 John 5:1  Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

Chase the verbs

Born - (γεννάω) gennaō
Tense - perfect
Voice - passive
Mood - indicative

Believes - πιστεύω pisteuō
Tense - present
Voice - active
Mood - participle
This morning we are going to see that the Bible speaks of regeneration in terms of a:

- New creation
- New man
- New heart

Let’s look first at the new creation;

1. The act of God in regeneration is a new creation

Turn to Titus 3:5
“by the washing of regeneration…”
the Greek word for regeneration is palligenesis which means back to birth
We are talking about a new creation.

When a person become a Christian it is like in the creation of the world when God said "let there be light" and now something comes from nothing.

This is the doctrine of ex nihilo which means something created from nothing.

God is not just revamping a man or improving him on the inside or you could say God is not just doing a makeover.

Instead God is doing a new work.
When God makes a Christian, He makes something new out of nothing

Scriptural Support

**Turn to 2 Corinthians 5:17-18**
2Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2Cor. 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

2 Corinthians 5:17, there is a passing from an old realm into a completely new realm
2 Corinthians 5:18, says that it is only God that does this thing
Turn to Galatians 6:15
For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

Paul is saying it doesn't matter what you do, whether you are baptized or not baptized, because it isn't what you do.

Regeneration is all about what God does to you.

All this other stuff like getting baptized, joining the church, reading the Bible, and prayer are all external manifestations of this secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us.

The real question is; have there been a creative new work of God that has taken place on the inside?
Ephesians 2:8-10
Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
Eph. 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Paul is talking here about salvation by faith and he thinks in terms of a creative work

We are products of God's workmanship that is in Christ Jesus God creates us unto good works
Colossians 3:8
Col. 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.
Col. 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,
Col. 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

What should we learn already from our study of the word regeneration?

It doesn't have to do with you it has everything to do with God. When you talk about someone become a Christian you are talking about something of the magnitude of the creation of the world. It is a creative miracle of God
2. The act of God in regeneration is a new man.

Scriptural Support:
- Ephesians 2:15
- Ephesians 4:24
- Colossians 3:10

It is clear in this creative work that God has done that He has created a new man.

And he is created in the image of God.

Each individual Christian is a new man and has put on Christ and is now in union with Christ.

Before this man was a Christian he was in union with Adam.

A Christian is not a person who is an old man and a new man.
The Christian doesn't have a new man that lives on the inside of him

He does not have an old man and a new man living on the inside

HE IS A NEW MAN!

Illustration:
The old Indian tale of the white dog and the black dog

Illustration:
Augustine before conversion was a very immoral man
And that is what it means to be a new man in Christ

How about two examples of a name change because they became new man in Christ

Jesus saw Simon and he said "you are Simon" because Jesus knew exactly who he was, but He said from now on you are going to be called Peter

And when Saul was changed to Paul

You know when you become a Christian and go back to your home town, everyone comes up to you and calls you by the old name and they say "hello Simon." And now you explain, no I am not Simon anymore I am Peter.

This is the recognition that you are a new man
The NT is about your growth in grace and living more and more like Christ.

God never says in the NT be who you are not or try to become someone that you are not.
It matters how you view yourself when it comes to these Biblical truths.

If you believe that you are essentially evil, then you will view growth in grace as God asking you to be something that goes against who you are and what you want.

But suppose you believe that you are a mixture between the black do and the white dog?
If you think that you are essentially the old man and the new man.

Then this will produce this kind of thinking, well I love evil but I also love good

Alan Redpath quote:
“A Christian is not a person who doesn’t sin anymore, they just no longer have to”

Illustration:
A poison factory that produces chemicals that are toxic and deadly. All the products that come from this factory are lethal.
3. The act of God in regeneration is a new heart.

In justification God takes care of all those crimes I commit whereas in regeneration God takes out the heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh.

We have just seen that the Bible also describes this act as:
1. new creation
2. new man

Turn to Ezekiel 36:22-27
When we read in Jeremiah 17:9 that the heart of man is evil and desperately wicked then we can know this isn't true about the Christian

Why?

Because God now has given us a new heart And we read that God now removes the heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh

A great description of a lost person is when we can look at them and say they are so hard hearted to the things of Jesus

We shouldn't be surprised because God has given us language in the Bible to describe this kind of person as hard and cold and unresponsive as a stone thereby using "heart of stone."
Look at the language that is used here in the text

God says "I will, I will, I will"

God takes out the heart of stone and gives now a heart of flesh that is warm, vibrant and that beats for Christ

God is telling us what He will do, He is going to cause that to happen
Turn to **Jeremiah 31:31-33**: There in the last verse we see justification but also we see regeneration

And there is never the one without the other. It is impossible to say that I have been justified but am the same way that I was.

The unbelieving man is at enmity with God and His law. He just hates the law of God.

But a regenerated man, a new man is one who delights in the law of God. And he delights in this law both day and night.

The Old Testament Law written on tablets of stone condemns
What are we to learn from this picture of the new heart?
1. All Christians live a different life, all true Christians
   Be careful of these statements; "yes he became a Christian but he
   never did grow"

2. All Christians will persevere till the end
   There are two opposing sides to this view;
   There are lost that think one can lose their salvation
   There are those that think "once saved always saved"
   Regeneration changes a person so radically that God says "I will
   rejoice over them and do them good"
Turn to: Jeremiah 32:38-41

But He also promises "I will put a fear of Me in them so they will not turn away from Me"

Notice that we aren't worried about God keeping His part of the covenant but now He assures us the we will keep our part of the covenant as well

Why would you ever want to turn away from God if you have a heart that delights in Him and His law