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

Carmel Baptist Church

The Doctrine of Regeneration-Part 2

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How I perform in my role determines how I feel about myself in life.
Being the Christian that you say that you have become
Grace comes down, joy rises and love overflows.
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)
Regeneration 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.
Regeneration = Born Again

Born again talk can be unsettling to many people because this means not something that you do but must be something that is done to you.

Therefore in the American evangelical world it means that we can’t plan, establish, make happen, control or bring it about because only God can do it.
The 4 verses that specifically deal with the phrase “born again” are:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:7 “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

1Pet. 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pet. 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
In every case the verb for “born again” indicates that God is the One who is doing the action.

John 3:3, 3:7 and 1 Peter 1:23 the verb “born again” is in the:
Passive Voice - which means the subject is the one who is receiving the action

1 Peter 1:3 the verb “born again” is in the:
Active Voice - which means the subject is initiating the action
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.
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.

Regeneration is all about what God does to you.

Paul is taking the emphasis away from us and saying it is not something that we do. For example it is not our circumcision or lack of circumcision, baptism or lack of baptism but what God does to us.

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; has 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 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 dog 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