

Regeneration in the Believer

August 31st & September 1st, 2013

Ephesians 4:17-24

“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! – assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

- ❖ Throughout this passage we find that, by the work of God, a corrupt person is transformed into someone created after the likeness of God in righteousness and holiness – the doctrine of regeneration.

Regeneration in the Believer is a Work of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ As Gentiles we were: “...alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that was in [us], due to [the] hardness of heart;” *Ephesians 4:18* In other words, we were separated from God and indifferent to His ways in a hostile manner, to a point where we were as enemies of God.
Colossians 1:21-22 “And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him,”
- ❖ We were dead in our trespasses and sins.
Ephesians 2:1-2 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, ...”
- ❖ Without the power of God, we are His enemies and we hate God. The only reason we don’t hate God even more is because of our blindness toward His Godliness, His holiness and His hatred toward sin.
- ❖ The supernatural work of God gives us a new heart and a new spirit. He removes the heart of stone and gives us a new heart; and then He places His Holy Spirit in us, and He causes us to walk in His statutes and be careful to obey His rules.
Ezekiel 36:26-27 “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”
- ❖ What would it take for a person to walk in God’s commandments and delight in them? It is a miracle, the greatest and most astounding miracle in a person. *Ezekiel 37:1-10*
- ❖ Regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. We call this the born again experience. *John 3:1-6*
- ❖ Regeneration takes place through the Spirit of God in your life. It is not your church attendance, the traditions you keep, the doctrines you follow or even your beliefs that make you go to heaven. If one has not experienced regeneration in one’s life and “...unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” *John 3:3*

Regeneration in the Believer is Life Transformation. *Ephesians 4:20-24*

- ❖ The characteristics of the old life are: futility of mind; an understanding that’s darkened; hardness of heart; callousness; given up to sensuality; greedy to practice every kind of impurity.
 - ↳ This is what we were without Christ!
- ❖ When Christ comes to our life, changing our core depraved nature and making us a new creation, transformation takes place.
 - ↳ We are on a journey toward the likeness of God!

What does transformation mean for the life of the believer?

- ❖ God not only changes our blindness, but he also changes the passions in our very core.

Luke 3:7-9

- ↳ Is there evidence of repentance from our past life and do we continue in repentance?
Or was it a one-time deal and now we feel like doing whatever we want?

Romans 5:20-6:4

- ↳ The miracle of salvation is that we were saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, it was His grace that abounded where sin increased. *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” Romans 6:1-2*

- ❖ We must deal with sin in our life; we must realize that if Christ rescued us from sin, we cannot live in sin.

Is the work of God affecting the way you live your life now?

- ❖ If you are truly a Christian you ought to reflect a new life. The old self was buried, the old self was crucified and according to Romans 6:6, we are no longer enslaved to sin, we are free from sin.
“We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.” Romans 6:6
- ❖ How is it that even though we have been freed from sin, we still sin? There is no perfect Christian. We will sin and fail to do what is right if we don't renew our minds constantly in the Word. If we don't trust God and we sin, at that very moment we know we sin and we repent because we are a new creation.
- ❖ The transformation of God in us is a result of His work, and we are called to abandon sin and put on the new self. *Colossians 3:3-10*
- ❖ The doctrine of regeneration makes us question our life style, our relation with sin, and the attitudes that drive our daily activities.
- ❖ The work of God is a process in our walk; it is a process that takes us a step closer to be like God each day.
“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

Endnote:

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