

## Doctrine of Regeneration

1. The heart of Reformation theology is that salvation is a monergistic work, which is a work, produced singly, by one person.
2. This concept opposes a synergist system of salvation or a divine co-operation with the human will. Regeneration precedes faith.
3. A soul that is saved does not co-operate with regenerating grace because the soul is by nature spiritually dead.
4. Just as Lazarus could not assist Jesus in his own resurrection so no sinner can help impart new life to his own soul.
5. The key verse is Ephesians 2:5 whereby Paul locates the precise time when regeneration occurs. The time is when we were DEAD. DEAD people do not co-operate with their deliverance.
  - *Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*
6. Regeneration is the transformation in a person's thoughts, feelings, and attitudes brought about by sovereign grace so that a person desires to love God and do good to all.
7. Regeneration was demanded in the Old Testament reflected in the fact that God desired obedience rather than sacrifice.
  - *1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*
  - *Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*
  - *Micah 6:7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*
8. Regeneration is a spiritual change in a person brought about by a gracious act of God through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - *John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*
9. Regeneration is the process and condition of spiritual change whereby a person passes from spiritual death to spiritual life.

10. The act of regeneration or the new birth allows an individual to enter into fellowship with God through faith in the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

- *John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
- *John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
- *John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*
- *1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
- *Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

11. Regeneration is the act of divine grace whereby a person is "born again." The instrument which God uses to cause regeneration is His word of truth (1 Thess. 2:13) being made effective to the understanding of the sinner so that faith may be exercised at the moment of gospel hearing.

- *1 Thes. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

12. Because regeneration is an act of divine grace upon the soul of sinners there is no basis for boasting in "free will."

- *John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
- *Titus 2:13-15 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that **he might redeem us** from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

13. Question. "Would not believing in Christ be a good work 'of righteousness'" for a man 'in the flesh'?" Indeed it would. And yet we read in Romans 8:8 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." The conclusion must be that "those who are in the flesh" cannot produce their own saving faith. Saving faith too must be the gift of God—and it is.

- *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

14. Baptism is the outward symbol of the "new birth" or the regeneration.

- *John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
- *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
- *Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*