

Biblical Theology

U5L2: Regeneration

Introduction

- Regeneration is preceded by Calling.
 - God chooses to use human evangelists to proclaim the Gospel.
 - Problem of Sin
 - Penalty of Sin
 - Payment of Sin
 - Invitation to respond personally in repentance and faith.
 - Promise of Forgiveness and Eternal Life

Nature of Regeneration

- Definition: The work of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to an individual. (Also referred to as being born again in the scriptures).
 1. **Regeneration is a mysterious but evident transformation.**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** - *new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*
 - **Ephesians 2:1-5** - *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*
 - **John 3:3-8** - *Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*
 2. **Regeneration is totally a work of God.**
 - **John 1:12-13** - *children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*
 - **James 1:18** - *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth*
 - **Colossians 2:13** - *God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*
 - **1 Peter 1:3** - *he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection*
 - **John 3:3** - *no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."*
 - **Ezekiel 36:26-27** - *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*
 3. **Various views exist as to when regeneration occurs.**
 - Reformed view: Regeneration is initial work of God and faith is first result of it. (Pre-Conversion)
 - **Colossians 2:13** - *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*
 - Non-reformed view: Regeneration is a result of faith in God (Post-Conversion)
 - **John 1:12-13** - *to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

Results of Regeneration

- Genuine regeneration always brings about results in the life of the true believer.
 1. **One who has been born again turns from a life of continual sin.**
 - **1 John 3:9** - *No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.*
 - **1 John 2:29** - *If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.*
 - Does not mean anyone is without sin.
 - **1 John 1:8** - *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*
 2. **One who has been born again turns to a life guided by the Spirit.**
 - **John 3:6** - *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*
 - **Galatians 5:22-23** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
 - **1 John 4:7** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*
 3. **One who has been born again is protected from Satan.**
 - **1 John 5:18** - *We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.*
 - **1 John 4:4** - *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

Discussion Questions

1. Have you been born again? Is there evidence of the new birth in your life? Can you describe how you knew something happened?
2. Have you held the view the rebirth takes place before or after conversion? Where do you stand on this subject following today's lesson? Explain.
3. Have you ever known someone who claims to be born again but whose life does not display evidence? What would it look like to gently, lovingly, and biblically handle a conversation with someone like this?

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 35: Conversion