

More Than Being Saved!

Eight Major Doctrines Defining New Testament Salvation

I. REGENERATION

Regeneration means to be given or imparted *life*. Concerning the Christian it refers to the life and nature he receives when he is born again and made a new creature in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word *regeneration* is found only two times in the Bible. First, in Matthew 19:28, where it speaks not of the new birth of the Christian but of the restoration of the earth at the second coming of Christ. It is mentioned the second time in Titus 3:5 where one finds the actual renewing and rebirth of the believer mentioned.

A. The Need For Regeneration

1. Since the fall of Adam in the garden of Eden (Genesis Ch. 2-3), every person (except Jesus Christ) has *been born spiritually dead* in trespasses and sins (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Ephesians 2:1-7). To correct this every individual must be born a *second time* unto righteousness and life (John 3:5-6).
2. Also, every individual on earth has inherited the evil nature Adam acquired at the fall. Therefore, each person needs another nature that is not evil, but righteous and holy, before he can have proper fellowship with a righteous God (Genesis 8:21; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; Matthew 13:38-42; Luke 11:13; 16:23; John 3:36; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15).
3. This evil nature, and the sins resulting from it, is totally contrary to God and brings His *wrath* on the individual (John 3:18, 36; Galatians 3:10; 4:8; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:5; etc.). Those who refuse God's gift of regeneration will *permanently* feel His wrath in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).
4. Jesus told Nicodemus, a very moral man and a ruler of the Jews, "**Ye must be born again**" (John 3:1-12).

B. The Method Of Regeneration

1. A person becomes regenerated when he hears the gospel, repents, and by faith *receives* Jesus Christ as his personal Savior (John 1:12-13; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; Peter 1:23).
2. Regeneration is a literal *birth* into God's family where the believer actually becomes God's child (Romans 8:14-16; 1 John 3:1-2; 5:1; 1 Peter 1:3).
3. When a person receives Christ, his spirit, which was dead in Adam, is instantly *reborn* by the Holy Spirit (John 3:6). After this, he is no longer in Adam but "in Christ" (Romans 8:1-11).
4. This birth is as real as a person's physical birth from his parents (John 3:5-6).
5. It enables the believer to call upon God as his father, and upon the Lord Jesus Christ as his elder brother (Romans 8:15-29; Galatians 4:6; Hebrews 2:10-13).
6. It also makes the believer a "*new creature*." This is because he has been given another nature in addition to the evil one he was born with (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).
7. This new nature is *Jesus Christ's very own nature*, thus it carries with it all of His moral attributes (Romans 6:8, 8:9; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:10, 4:24; Colossians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:4).

8. Since the new nature is Christ's nature, it is in every way contrary to the believer's fallen, Adamic nature which he still has (Romans Ch. 6-8; Galatians 5:16-26; Colossians 3:9-10).

9. Every Christian is to grow and become mature in his new nature and make no provision for the old (Romans 13:14; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 7:1; Galatians 5:16; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).

C. The Permanence Of Regeneration

1. Since the life a Christian receives is Christ's own life, it is therefore *eternal life* (John 3:15-16, 5:24, 6:40,48, 10:28-30; Romans 6:22; 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13; etc.).

2. The father and child relationship between God and the regenerated believer *cannot be broken*. Regardless of what may happen in a Christian's life, he will always be God's child (John 10:28-30).

3. The believer is born again by "**incorruptible seed**" (the word of God), thus he "**liveth and abideth forever**" (1 Peter 1:23).