

# SLB-019 and 020

## 10-22-06

Regeneration and The Spiritual Life

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- We get the doctrine of regeneration mainly from the apostle John, as we get the doctrine of justification mainly from the apostle Paul.
- Stevens, Johannine Theology, 366—“Paul’s great words are, justification, and righteousness; John’s are, birth from God, and life. But, for both Paul and John, faith is life-union with Christ.”

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- Union with Christ is not union with a system of doctrine, nor with external religious influences, nor with an organized church, nor with an ideal man,—but rather, with a personal, risen, living, omnipresent Lord (J. W. A. Stewart). Dr. J. W. Alexander well calls this doctrine of the Union of the Believer with Christ “the central truth of all theology and of all religion.”
- *Eph. 2:20–22—“being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God in the Spirit”;*

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Too often it is assumed that Christ came into the world so that men might have a perfect example for daily living, an example of superior character, or a new set of rule's for life.
- Christ said, however: *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10)*
- This is one of about eighty-five passages related to the Christian's new being.
- He was speaking of an imparted life which no human being has ever received apart from the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *John 3:3—“Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God”;*
- *5:21—“as the Father raiseth the dead and giveth them life, even so the Son also giveth life to whom he will”;*
- *Eph. 2:1—“And you did he make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins”;*
- *5:14—“Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon thee.”*
- *Col. 1:13—“who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love.”*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- In John 3:3—“born anew” does NOT mean, “altered,” “influenced,” “reinvigorated,” “reformed”; but a new beginning, a new being, a new family likeness to God and to his children.
- “So is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8) does NOT mean “religious”, “emotional”, “moral”; but a new creation - a class of living organism never existing on the earth before.

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- Eph. 2:5—“when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive us together with Christ”;
- Eph 4:23, 24—“that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth”;
- Rom. 6:13—“present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead”;

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- James 1:18—“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth”—here in connection with the special agency of God (not of mere natural law) the truth is spoken of as a means;
- 1 Pet. 1:23—“having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth”;
- 2 Pet. 1:4—“his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature”;
- John 15:3—“Already ye are clean because of the word which I have spoken unto you”;

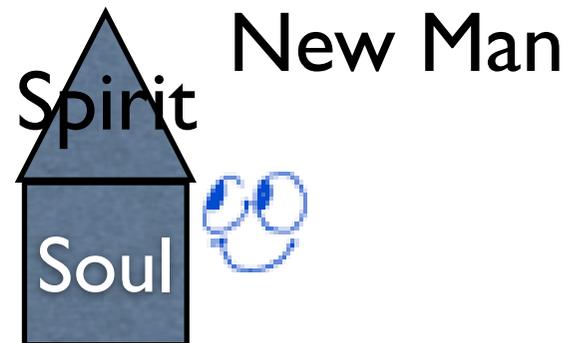
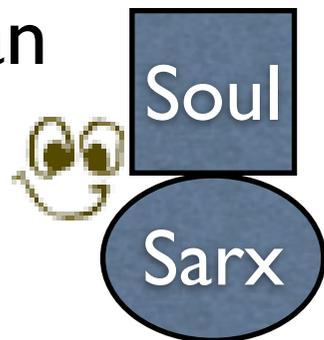
# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *John 5:24—“He that heareth my word, and believeth him that sent me, hath eternal life, and cometh not into judgment, but hath passed out of death into life”;*
- *John 3:8—“The wind bloweth where it will, and and thou hearest the voice thereof, but knowest not whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit”;*
- *Phil. 2:12, 13—“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure”*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- Eph. 2:10—“created in Christ Jesus for good works”— does not imply that the old soul is annihilated, and a new soul created.
- The “old man” which is “crucified”—(Rom 6:6) and “put away” (Eph. 4:22) is “YOU”, the Soul coupled to the Inherited Sin Nature of Adam.
- The New Man is “YOU, the Soul coupled with the New Human Spirit.

Old Man



# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- Or, regarding the change from another point of view, we may speak of man as having a “new nature,” as “recreated,” as being a “new creature,” because this *direction* of the affection and will, which ensures a different life from what was led before, is something totally new, and due wholly to the regenerating act of God.
- In 1 Pet. 1:23—“begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible”—all materialistic inferences from the word “seed,” as if it implied the implantation of a physical germ, are prevented by the following explanatory words: “through the word of God, which liveth and abideth.”

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *Rom. 5:12, 21—“as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin....that, as sin reigned in death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”;*
- *1 Cor. 15:22, 45, 49—“as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive....The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit....as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly”*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *—as the whole race is one with the first man Adam, in whom it fell and from whom it has derived a corrupted and guilty nature, so the whole race of believers constitutes a new and restored humanity, whose justified and purified nature is derived from Christ, the second Adam.*
- *Cf. Gen. 2:23—“This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man”—here C. H. M. remarks that, as man is first created and then woman is viewed in and formed out of him, so it is with Christ and the church.*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *“We are members of Christ’s body, because in Christ we have the principle of our origin; from him our life arose, just as the life of Eve was derived from Adam....*
- *The church is Christ’s helpmeet, formed out of Christ in his deep sleep of death, as Eve out of Adam....*
- *The church will be nearest to Christ, as Eve was to Adam.”*
- *Because Christ is the source of all spiritual life for his people, he is called, in Is. 9:6, “Everlasting Father,” and it is said, in Is. 53:10, that “he shall see his seed” (see page 680).*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- John 14:23—“If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him”;
- cf. 10—“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I say unto you I speak not from myself: but the Father abiding in me doeth his works”—the Father and the Son dwell in the believer; for where the Son is, there always the Father must be also. If the union between the believer and Christ in John 14:23 is to be interpreted as one of mere moral influence, then the union of Christ and the Father in John 14:10 must also be interpreted as a union of mere moral influence.

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *Rom. 8:9, 10—“ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness.”*
- *Eph. 3:17—“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”; 1 John 4:16—“he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him.”*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- A tract entitled “The Seven Together” sums up the Scripture testimony with regard to the Consequences of the believer’s Union with Christ:
- 1. Crucified together with Christ—Gal. 2:20—  
συνεσταύρωμαι.
- 2. Died together with Christ—Col. 2:20—ἀπεθάνετε.
- 3. Buried together with Christ—Rom. 6:4—  
συνετάφημεν
- 4. Quickened together with Christ—Eph. 2:5—  
συνεζωοποίησεν

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- 5. Raised together with Christ—Col. 3:1—συνηγέρθητε
- 6. Sufferers together with Christ—Rom. 8:17—  
συμπάσχομεν.
- 7. Glorified together with Christ—Rom. 8:17—  
συνδοξασθῶμεν.
- Union with Christ results in common sonship, relation to God, character, influence, and destiny.

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *Rom. 8:2—“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death”;*
- *2 Cor. 5:17—“if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature” (marg.—“there is a new creation”);*
- *Gal. 1:15, 16—“it was the good pleasure of God....to reveal his Son in me”;*
- *Eph. 2:10—“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”*
- As we derive our old nature from the first man Adam, by birth, so we derive a new nature from the second man Christ, by the new birth.

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *Ezek. 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."*
- *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)*
- *John 1:12–13: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts” (Gal. 4:6).*
- *2 Pet. 1:4—“that through these [promises] ye may become partakers of the divine nature”*
- *Eph. 5:29, 30—“no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as Christ also the church; because we are members of his body.”*

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- The new nature has divine qualities and longs after the things of God.
- Although in itself it does not have the power to fulfill its desires apart from the Holy Spirit, it gives a new direction to the life and a new aspiration to attain the will of God.