

SLB-020

10-22-06

Regeneration and The Spiritual Life

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- While regeneration in itself is not an experience, the new life received in regeneration gives the believer new capacity for experience.
- Once he was blind to God, now he can see.
- Once he was dead, now he is alive to spiritual things.
- Once he was estranged from God and out of fellowship; now he has a basis for fellowship with God and can receive the Ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- In proportion as the Christian yields himself to God and avails himself of God's provision, his experience will be a wonderful, supernatural demonstration of what God can do with a life that is yielded to him.
- “that the life also of Jesus might be manifested in our mortal flesh” (2 Cor. 4:11).

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Phil. 1:19 - the believer united to his Risen Lord 'grows continually to a more perfect knowledge and likeness of his Creator,' and grows up 'after the image of Him that created him, in the sphere where 'Christ is all, and in all.'
- "The child naturally grows up in the likeness of his father, and the new life communicated to the redeemed grows up in the likeness of Him who is the Creator of the new creation if so be that the death with Christ is unflinchingly recognized, and 'old things' are truly allowed to pass away to make room for the growth of the new man 'which is after God . . . created in righteousness, and holiness of truth' (Eph. 4:24)."

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *“Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).*
- *John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*
- *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).*
- *“He Himself, through Jesus Christ, accomplishing through you what is pleasing to Him” (Heb. 13:21, Wms.).*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *“For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3, ASV).*
- *“I have been crucified with Christ, and I myself no longer live” (Gal. 2:20, Wms.)*
- *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25).*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *“Present yourself unto God as alive from the dead’ (Rom. 6:13)*
- *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors bound not to the Flesh, that we should live after the Flesh [but to the Spirit]” (Rom. 8:12, Cony.).*
- *“The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7)*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *“Christ, who is our life” (Col. 3:4).*
- *“Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you” (Rom. 8:9).*
- *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17)*
- *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2).*
- *“For to me to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21).*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling ...” (Heb. 3:1).*
- *Colossians 1:12, have already by Christ’s work on the Cross, been made “meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light,” and their - citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).*
- *“Ye have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3)*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *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.”*
- *John 14:20 “At that day ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you.*
- It is to them that receive Christ, or believe on Him, that the right to be the sons of God is accorded.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- This means that God's answer to an individual's faith in Christ is such that by the power of God he is born of God and thus becomes an actual son of His.
- The knowledge of the Savior upon whom faith must rest is gained from the word of God through the Spirit, hence Christ said that such are born of the Word which is symbolized by water and the Spirit (John 3:5) and the Apostle declares: *"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 Spirit" (Titus 3:5).*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- *John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*
- What statement could be more direct or conclusive than this?
- It is asserted that “whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- Thus without exception all that enters into salvation, including the gift of eternal life, depends only on the one human requirement of believing on the Savior.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Dr. John Walvoord states: “Few doctrines are more fundamental to effective preaching than the doctrine of regeneration.
- Failure to comprehend its nature and to understand clearly its necessity will cripple the efficacy of Gospel preaching.
- Both for the Bible teacher and the evangelist an accurate knowledge of the doctrine of regeneration is indispensable.
- *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- The Greek word is properly translated “*new birth, reproduction, renewal, re-creation*” (Thayer).
- It is applied not only to human beings but also to the renewed heaven and earth of the millennium (Mt. 19:28).
- In relation to the nature of man, it includes the various expressions used for eternal life such as *new life, new birth, spiritual resurrection, new creation, new mind, “made alive,” sons of God, and translation into the kingdom*. In simple language, regeneration consists of all that is represented by eternal life in a human being.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Theological usage of the word *regeneration* has tended to confuse rather than enrich the word.
- Other words such as *conversion*, *sanctification*, and *justification* have been either identified or included in the concept of regeneration.
- During the seventeenth century, conversion was used commonly as a synonym for regeneration.
- This usage ignored a most important fact, however—that conversion is the human act and regeneration is an act of God.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- For the last century, Reformed theologians have agreed that regeneration properly designates the act of impartation of eternal life, God's Life.
- As Charles Hodge states it: "By a consent almost universal the word *regeneration* is now used to designate, not the whole work of sanctification, nor the first states of that work comprehended in conversion, much less justification or any mere external change of state, but the instantaneous change from spiritual death to spiritual life" (*Op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 5).

Imputation and Impartation

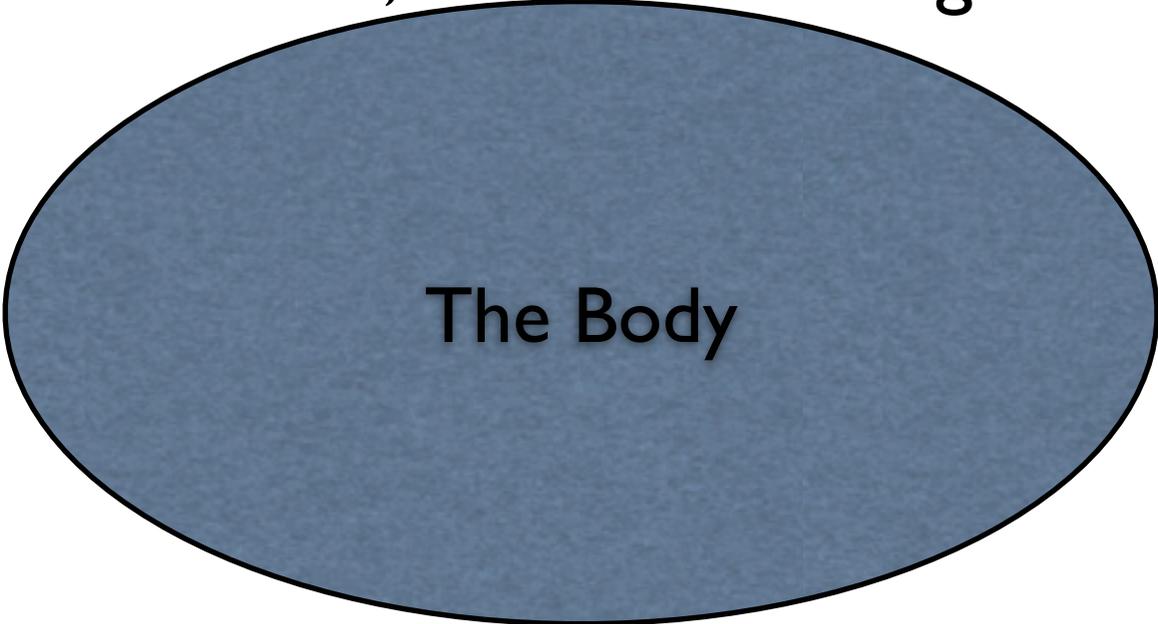


The Soul



Spirit

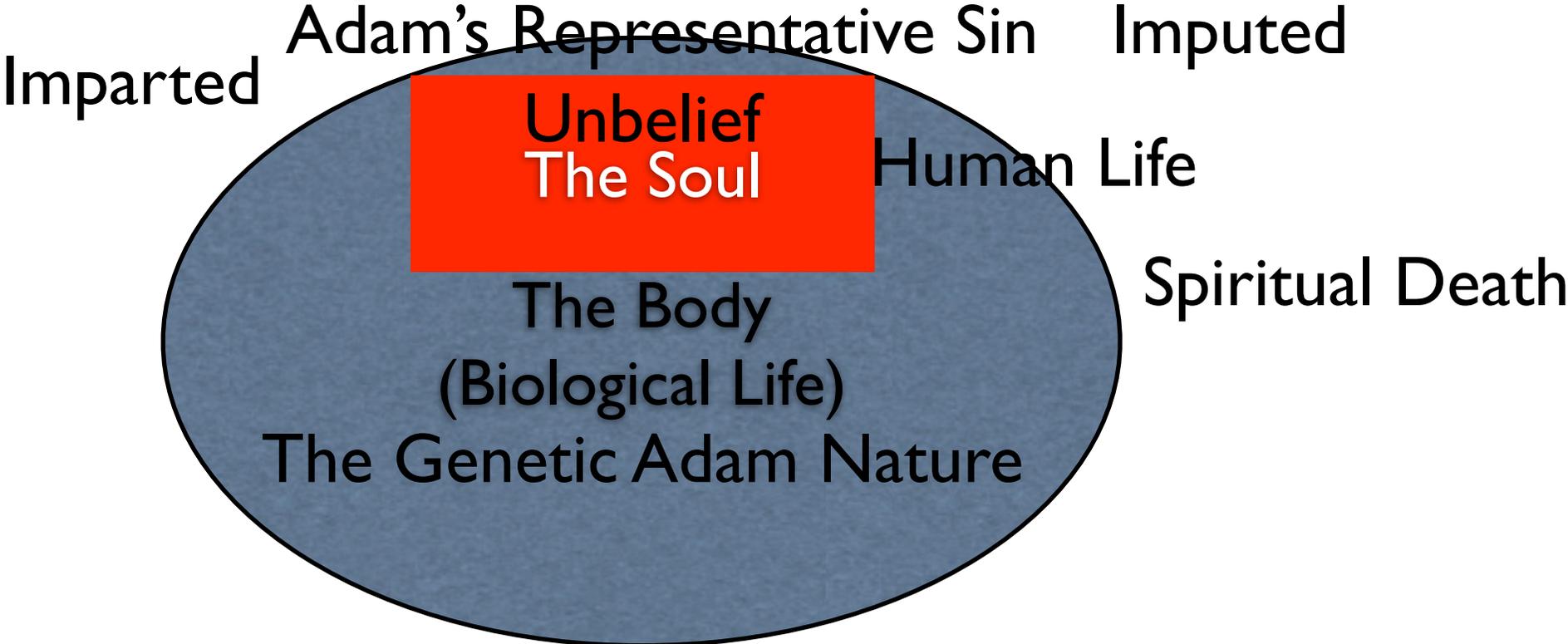
“I pray God that your whole Spirit, Soul, and Body remain blameless, until the coming of our Lord.”



The Body

Imputation and Impartation: Human Life

The Soul



Imputation and Impartation: Human Life

“the Word of Truth”

Imparted

New Creation!

Spirit
(God Life)

Faith in Christ

Spirit
(God Life)

Christ's

business

Unbelief
The Soul
Faith in Christ

The Body
(Biological Life)
The Genetic Adam Nature

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- As in other great undertakings of the Godhead, each Person has an important part, in keeping with Their one essence.
- As in the birth of Christ, where all the Persons of the Godhead were related to the conception of Christ, so in the new birth of the Christian the First Person becomes the Father of the believer, the Second Person imparts His own eternal life (1 John 5:12), and the Holy Spirit, the Third Person, acts as the efficient agent of regeneration.
- The work of regeneration can be assigned to the Holy Spirit as definitely as the work of salvation can be assigned to Christ.— *Ibid.*, pp. 143–44.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- On the important truth that eternal life is imparted by regeneration, the same writer asserts:
- As the word itself implies, the central thought in the doctrine of regeneration is that eternal life is imparted.
- Regeneration meets the need created by the presence of spiritual death.
- The method of impartation is, of course, inscrutable.
- There is no visible method or process discernible.
- By its nature it is supernatural and therefore its explanation is beyond human understanding.
- The Scriptures in presenting the impartation of eternal life use three figures to describe it.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Again, Regeneration is a new birth.
- As Christ told Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).
- In contrast to human birth of human parentage, one must be born “of God” (John 1:13) in order to become a child of God.
- According to James 1:18, “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
- The figure is eloquent in portraying the intimate relation of the child of God to his heavenly Father and in relating the kind of life the believer in Christ receives to the eternal life which is in God.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Regeneration supplies this lack of eternal life as justification and sanctification deal with the problem of sin and Relative Righteousness specifically.
- It is a terminal blow to all philosophies which hold that man has inherent capacities of saving himself.
- Regeneration is wholly of God.
- No possible human effort however noble can supply eternal life.
- The proper doctrine of regeneration gives to God all glory and power due His name, and at the same time it displays His abundant provision for a race dead in sin.