

Regeneration

Definition

✓ "Regeneration is the act of God awakening spiritual life within us, bringing us from spiritual death to spiritual life" (Grudem, 702).

Assumptions

✓ Humans are in need of a transformation because of spiritual deadness, total depravity, and inability to know God

Historical Views—Regeneration

- ✓ Self-actualized regeneration (Pelagians and Liberals)
- ✓ Baptismal regeneration (Catholics/Lutherans)
- ✓ Presumptive or Promissory regeneration (Covenant Reformed)
- ✓ Synergistic regeneration (Arminians)
- ✓ Work of God in response to faith (some Reformed Evangelicals)
- ✓ Work of God which enables saving faith (some Reformed Evangelicals)

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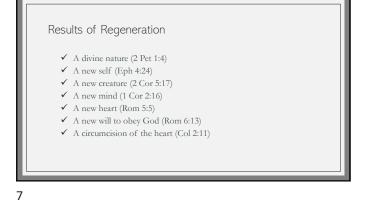
Regeneration in the Old Testament

- ✓ Deuteronomy 30:6—note the present-tense element to this
- ✓ Jeremiah 31:33—New Covenant promise
- ✓ Ezekiel 36:25–27—Future-tense
- ✓ DEBATE: OT saints regenerated?—Not in same sense as NT saints, but there is some sort of internal change (Ps 51)
 - ✤ KEY DIFFERENCE: Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

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Regeneration in the New Testament

- ✓ John 3:3—born again (Lit. "from above")
 ✤ New spiritual birth in contrast to physical
- ✓ John 3:5—"is born" is passive—something done to man, not by
- man ✔ Titus 3:5
- ✓ Water and Holy Spirit (Num 19:17–19; Isa 4:4; 32:15; 44:3; 55:1; Joel 2:28–29; Zech 13:1)
- ✓ John 1:13; 1 Peter 1:3, 23; Colossians 2:13; James 1:18



Debate—Regeneration

- ✓ Acknowledge the mysterious nature of regeneration (John 3:8)
- ✓ Simultaneous view—regeneration and faith
- ✓ Faith comes first view
- ✓ Regeneration comes first view (John 3:5; 6:44; Acts 16:14)

IMPORTANT:

God starts the work

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Summary—Regeneration

- ✓ Not a tangible experience with five senses
- ✓ Supernatural occurrence
- ✓ Results in a divine nature
- ✓ Involves counteracting effects of sin
- ✓ Beginning of a lifetime of spiritual growth—sanctification

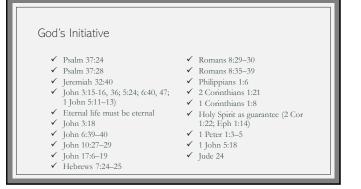
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Doctrine of Perseverance

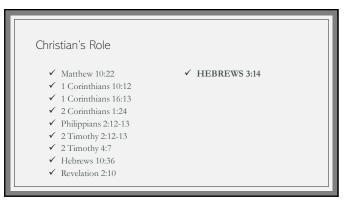
Historical Views

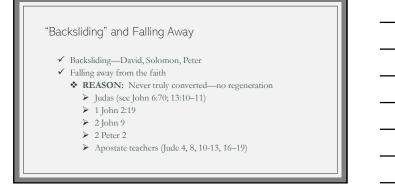
- ✓ Salvation can be forfeited by mortal sin (Roman Catholics)
- ✓ Can be lost by walking after the flesh (Many Arminians)
- ✓ Elect believers persevere and non-elect believers fall away (some Lutherans)
- ✓ God preserves true Christians so that they persevere to the end (Reformed)

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Hebrews Warnings

Most debated: Hebrews 6:4-6

- ✓ View 1: True believers can fall away
- ✓ View 2 : This is hypothetical apostasy
- View 3 : Not truly saved—they know the truth but have not applied it to their lives

See also Hebrews 10:26–29

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