

## Regeneration

- **No-one who is *not* joined to Christ**

WCF 10.4. Although other persons who are not elected may be called by the ministry of the Word and may experience some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never really come to Christ and therefore cannot be saved. Much less can men not professing to be Christians be saved in any other way, no matter how carefully they may order their lives by the light of nature and by the laws of whatever religion they profess. To assert and maintain that they may be saved in some other way is very pernicious and is to be detested.

### Discuss:

1. What comes into your mind when you hear the phrase “born again Christian”?
2. Why is it so good that Christians are “born again”?

### Introduction

John 3:1-15

Q: How do we respond to God’s call... given our total inability?

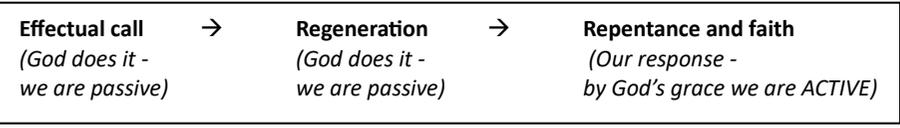
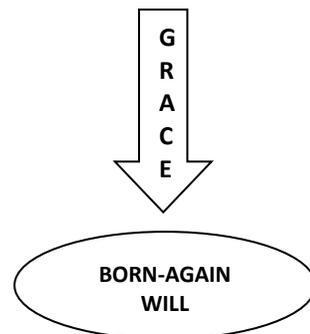
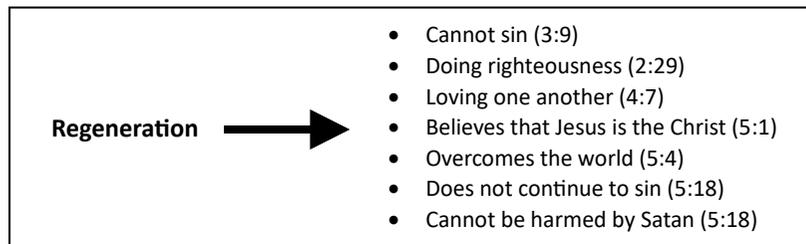
“... an *effectual* call... must carry along with it the appropriate response on the part of the person called. It is God who calls but it is not God who answers the call; it is the person to whom the call is addressed”

John Murray, Redemption Accomplished and Applied

A: Through the grace of regeneration

## 5. So? regeneration is the source of all saving grace in us

- **the fruits of regeneration in 1 John**



### 1. Regeneration: key terms and definition

re-generation  
 born again / new birth  
 new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)

“Regeneration is a sovereign work of God, accomplished by His Holy Spirit. We are passive in the work of regeneration. By His Spirit, God re-creates the mind and affections of a person. As a result, that person is able to and will necessarily repent and believe the Gospel.”

## 2. Key Bible texts and meaning

John 3:5, “Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”

Ezekiel 36:25-26, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> 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.”

- **“born of water” = cleansing & dealing with the past**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **“born of the Spirit” = divine re-birth**

WCF 10.1 “... God enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly, so that they understand the things of God. He takes away their hearts of stone and gives them hearts of flesh, renews their wills, and by his almighty power turns them to what is good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet he does this in such a way that they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.”

## 3. The “who” of regeneration

- **Not because of anything in us**

WCF 10.2. “This effectual call is from God's free and special grace alone, and not from anything at all that God foresees in man, who is entirely passive in it, until—being made alive and renewed by the Holy Spirit—he is enabled to answer the call and embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.”

- **Hope for a very real grief**

WCF 10.3. Elect infants who die in infancy are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who works when, where, and how he pleases. So also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.