

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church March 8, 2020

Sequence of Salvation (Review)

Unconditional Election ← Election

Total Depravity ← The Fall

Irresistible Grace
Effective Call
Regeneration

Limited Atonement

Faith
Repentance

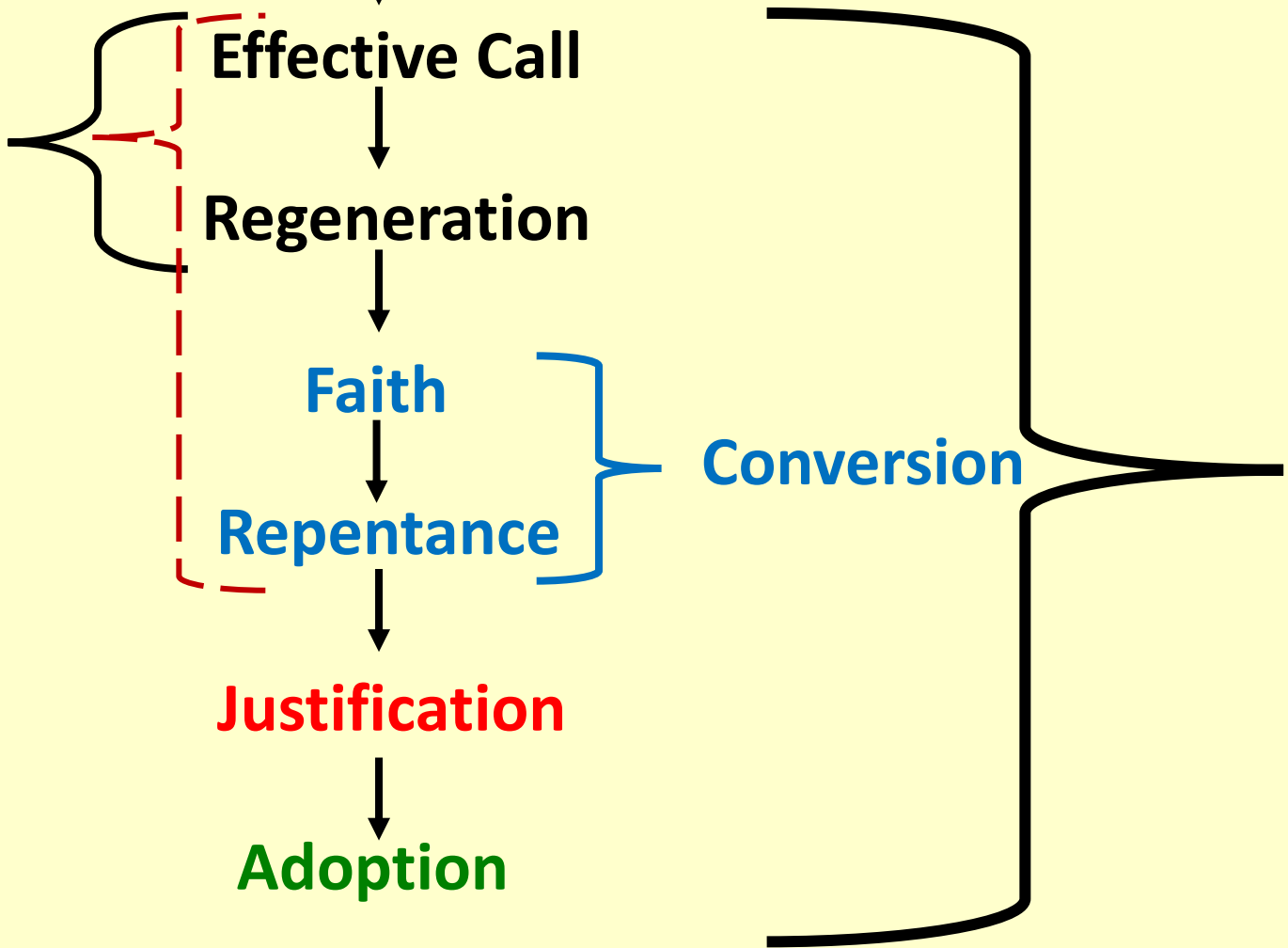
Conversion

Preservation of the saints

Justification

Adoption

Elapsed Time is Zero



Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

- Regeneration (being “born again”) is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to the elect. – Wayne Grudem
- To have physical life we must be born physically. To have spiritual life we must be born spiritually.
- Just as we have nothing to do with our physical birth we also have nothing to do with our spiritual birth. It is totally a work of God.
- Regeneration is expressed in the NT in various ways such as “children of God,” “born again,” a “new creation” or “made alive.”

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12 – 13)

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together** with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13)

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:3 – 8)

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3 – 5)

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

- The OT speaks of a new covenant that would give new spiritual life to his people.

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:26 – 27)

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

- Which member(s) of the Trinity bring about regeneration?
 - God the Holy Spirit:

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 1:6)

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 1:8)

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

- God the Father:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4 – 5)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. (James 1:17 – 18)

Regeneration: Is totally a work of God

- God the Father:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- The logical sequence of events is: the effective call precedes regeneration which must precede saving faith.
- In the time domain, regeneration the effective call and saving faith happen simultaneously.

since you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. "And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:23 – 25)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- Regeneration precedes faith

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:44)

And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." (John 6:65)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- What does it mean to be born of water and the Spirit?
 - Linguistically water and Spirit point to a single spiritual birth.
 - John 3:6 does speak of physical birth and Spiritual birth. There are no ancient writings that picture physical birth as from water.
 - Nicodemus would not have been helped if it referred to Christian water baptism.
 - No where does the NT make John's baptism a requirement for salvation.

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- Most likely it refers to OT passages where water and Spirit are linked to pouring out God's Spirit in end times and purification and new life that flow from His arrival. This supported by Jesus rebuking Nicodemus in John 3: 9 - 10.

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- Most likely it refers to OT passages where water and Spirit are linked to pouring out God's Spirit in end times and purification and new life that flow from His arrival. This is supported by Jesus rebuking Nicodemus in John 3: 9-10.

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- Some examples of OT passages linking water and Spirit to pouring out God's Spirit in end times and purification and new life that flow from His arrival.

¹⁴ For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks;

¹⁵ until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. ¹⁶ Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. ¹⁷ And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. ¹⁸ My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. Isaiah 32:14 - 18

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- Some examples of OT passages linking water and Spirit to pouring out God's Spirit in end times and purification and new life that flow from His arrival.

“But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! ² Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, **Jeshurun*** whom I have chosen. ³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; **I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.** Isaiah 44:1 – 3)

* Poetic name for Israel meaning “upright one” (Deuteronomy 32:15)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

Some examples of OT passages linking water and Spirit to pouring out God's Spirit in end times and purification and new life that flow from His arrival.

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. (Ezekiel 36:25 – 29)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- Regeneration precedes faith

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (Acts 16:14)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- We are Spiritually Dead before regeneration:

no one understands; no one seeks for God. (Romans 3:11)

And you were **dead in the trespasses and sins** ² in which you **once walked**, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience⁴ **But God**, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love with which he loved us**, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:1 – 2, 4 – 5)

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Regeneration: Relationship to effective calling and irresistible grace

- The Solution:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us **alive together with Christ**--by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4 – 5)

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together** with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13)

- The first evidence of regeneration is saving faith.