

# “Death to Life (Regeneration)”

## The Line #1

### INTRODUCTION

In our new sermon series, The Line, we will be studying some of the basic tenets of the faith. Our first study focuses on regeneration, being brought from spiritual death to life. It is the starting point of the Christian life, but what does the Bible tell us about the necessity, nature and results of our regeneration?

#### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Have you ever seen a transformation from something worthless into something valuable?

### Study Questions (45 MIN)

#### **Definition of regeneration**

**Q1. Read Titus 3:5, John 3:3-6; 1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:8-9**

Regeneration refers to renewal, reproduction or new birth. The Greek word for regeneration<sup>1</sup> is used only twice in the Bible, but the concept it conveys is reinforced in other passages. In the above passages who performs the regeneration that saves us? God is continuously involved in making things new. What “new things” can you identify that God has done in your life? What areas still need to become “new”?

<sup>1</sup>*paliggenesia*

#### **Necessity of regeneration**

**Q2. Read John 3:7; Ephesians 2:1, 4-7; Ephesians 4:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4**

Jesus said that regeneration is necessary to see that kingdom of God (John 3:7). What is our condition without it (Ephesians 2:1)? In our state of “spiritual death” we are without understanding of the things of God (Ephesians 4:18). What is the only way we can receive life and understanding? Do you recall having those first “aha” moments when the things of God began to make sense? Describe what that was like for you.

#### **Nature of regeneration**

**Q3. Read 1 Peter 1:22 -23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; Romans 7:18-23; Romans 6:17-18; 2 Timothy 4:18**

In some ways our new birth is like our natural birth; we have a heavenly father and we reflect his image. But what is one important difference according to 1 Peter 1:23? This eternal perspective gives us a basis for

hope that can see us through the most difficult of times in our lives. 2 Corinthians 5:17 makes it clear that once we are “born again” we also have a new, regenerated nature. God’s intention for us, as His new creations, is to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). Paul himself experienced the conflict between the regenerated nature of the spirit, and the nature of the flesh (Romans 7:18-23) that each of us may struggle with. What assurance do we have from Romans 6:17-18 and 2 Timothy 4:18 as we face such struggles ourselves?

#### **Results of regeneration**

**Q4 Read 2 Peter 1:3-4, Galatians 5:22-23**

The life God gives us through regeneration is an incredible gift. What are some of those benefits that are listed in 2 Peter 1:3-4? As you live as a new creation, you will experience a new “fruitfulness.” Look at the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these areas have you already seen growth, and which would you like to find even greater growth in?

#### **Wrap-Up**

The power of God is able to take us from death to life, and through Him we are regenerated, we are born again, into a new creation. In our regenerated nature we reflect the image of our heavenly father and are given imperishable, eternal life. Although we still may experience the struggle between our old (flesh) and our new (spiritual) natures, we know that God has given us great and precious promises to escape and bear spiritual fruit for His kingdom.

#### **Memory Verse**

*...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*  
*Titus 3:5 ESV*

#### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** *Thank Jesus for His power to make things new. Ask Him to renew specific areas of your life that need renewal: e.g., spiritual vitality, relationships, motivation, thinking, etc.*

**Q1**

Titus 3:5 ESV - 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

John 3:3-6 ESV - 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 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?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Peter 1:3 ESV - 3 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,

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Q2**

John 3:7 ESV - 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Ephesians 2:1, 4-7 ESV - 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ... 4 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-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:18 ESV - 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV - 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Q3**

1 Peter 1:22-23 ESV - 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

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

Ephesians 2:10 ESV - 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Read Romans 7:18-23 in your Bible

Romans 6:17-18 ESV - 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

2 Timothy 4:18 ESV - 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Q4**

2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV - 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Prayer Notes cont.**

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