

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#19: Made alive with Christ

“Being made alive with Christ” falls under the rubric of regeneration. While this is a positional truth, it is more than just a position. Not only are we considered regenerate human beings positionally to God, we are also regenerated on an ontological level. Not only are we identified in the mind of God in a new position of being made alive with Christ forever, regeneration is a *life-giving act of God*. Regeneration not only is *positional* it is very *experiential*—*we live in the experience of the new life God imparted to us*. (Experiential is distinct from emotional; they are not identical.)

Regeneration is solely the work of God (Eph. 2:10). It is absurd to think that a believer by any act could actually create a new life within himself. Regeneration is cause of our capacities to love God and be drawn to the Word of God which contains spiritual truths. It is the brand new life in us that is the source of our inclinations to the things of God and the spiritual life. Before salvation a person is *dead* to spiritual things. Religion comes along and tries to clean up dead people, but they do not have the spiritual life with its capacities for the things of God. To ask a person to love Bible doctrine who does not possess the new life is about as effective as asking a dead man to get up and walk. The capacity is simply not there. The Bible says that the unregenerate is *dead*.

The agent of regeneration is God the Holy Spirit. Only God the Holy Spirit has the power to create a brand new life in us *ex nihilo*. It was God who created our souls *ex nihilo* at our first creation, it is God the Holy Spirit who recreates us *ex nihilo* at our second creation the instant we believe in Christ. These are both ontological changes—when our souls were first created and when they were spiritually renewed. Not only are we considered positionally renewed as we are placed in Christ, there is actually the phenomenon of an ontological change. Wow!

Of course there is no mystery about the need for this ontological change. We need far more than positional truth to live the spiritual life. We need a real change on this earth. We need new life to have new capacities for God, for *Esse*! God provides for us so richly. We have positional security, we have new life with experiential dimensions of loving God and producing divine good for His glory. Wow!

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Ephesians 2:1-6 And **you were dead** in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. . . ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, **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,,

Colossians 2:13 And when **you were dead** in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

In Christ,

Pastor Don