

person is himself/herself a new creature, or that the creation around the person appears new, in either case he/she is greatly changed. He/she is different, and the way in which he/she views things is different!

In Colossians 3:10 we read: "And have put on the new (man), that which is being renewed in full knowledge according to the image of the one who created him." Originally, God created human beings in His own image. Now God re-creates them in His image, both initially and progressively.

Accordingly, let me propose the following definition of the new creation:

The new creation is that aspect of regeneration in which the spiritual and moral image ruined in the Fall is initially and progressively restored to the human spirit

D. Regeneration as a New Nature

In Ephesians 2:3 Paul writes: "We were by nature children (or objects) of wrath." The nature of anything is what it is, expressed in terms of its essential defining characteristics. By nature, i.e., by what we were, we were objects of wrath. Not simply because of what we did, but because of what we were, we stood under God's great anger.

In 2 Peter 1:4 we find that through God's glory and goodness "he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature"

And in Titus 3:5 Paul says that "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit renews or renovates man's spiritual nature; i.e., He renews what a person is morally and spiritually.

Let me therefore propose the following definition of the new nature: