

The new life is that aspect of regeneration in which the spirit of a human being who is spiritually dead is, through union with Christ, made spiritually alive

C. Regeneration as a New Creation

In Genesis 1:26-27 we are told:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

At their creation, human beings were created upright, with a personal knowledge of God. But they fell, lost their original uprightness, and lost the true knowledge of God. All human beings, except the Lord Jesus Christ, were included in the sinful effects of the Fall.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes: "So that if anyone is in Christ, he is (or there is) a new creature (or new creation). The old things have passed away, behold, new things have come into existence." Does this mean that everything about the regenerated person is completely new? Does it mean that the regenerated person no longer has the same physical body? Does it mean that the regenerated person has no remnants of sin in him/her? We must answer "no" to both these questions.

However, whether we understand this verse to mean that the regenerate 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.