

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:

**The new nature is that aspect of regeneration in which the moral and spiritual characteristics of man's nature are initially and progressively renewed, and the direction of man's conduct is changed from an active inclination toward sin to an active inclination toward righteousness**

Regeneration is presented in the Bible under four key aspects: a new birth, a new life, a new creation, and a new nature. And I would suggest that the new birth results in a new life, and the new creation results in a new nature.