

The Old Testament doctrine of depravity not only coincides with the New Testament teaching, but stands as the background or setting which provides the occasion for much of the New Testament's doctrine of depravity, as well as the situation in which the progressive unfolding of redemptive revelation is fulfilled and climaxed. Thus it is quite clear that natural descendents of Adam, whether found in the Old Testament period or in the New Testament period, are spiritually depraved and dead, and are therefore unregenerate.

SOME PROBLEMS RAISED BY VIEWING OLD TESTAMENT BELIEVERS AS UNREGENERATE

If it be admitted that all men born of ordinary generation in the Old Testament period were unregenerate; and then, in the same breath, asserted that Old Testament believers were not regenerated by the Holy Spirit; certain knotty problems arise in regard to a number of universally applicable statements made in the New Testament when compared with statements applied to believers in the Old Testament. Among others, two such problems may be mentioned: (1) The irreconcilability of certain New Testament characterizations of the unregenerate state with Old Testament characterizations of the state of the Old Testament believer, and (2) the necessary relation between regeneration and other scriptural facts and doctrines, theologically considered.

Problem One

This first problem area shows the irreconcilability of certain New Testament characterizations of the unregenerate state with Old Testament characterizations of the state of the Old Testament believer. This area can perhaps best be shown by the citation of and comparison of Old and New Testament scriptures, arranged in categories: