

in Christ Jesus." This passage teaches that we were once spiritually dead, but that through the application of the redemptive work of Christ we have been made spiritually alive.

4. Colossians 2:13 -- "And you, being dead in sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive (συνεζωοποίησεν) together with Him, forgiving us all the sins." Through Christ's atonement we who were spiritually dead were made spiritually alive.

Other passages that could be included under the aspect of a new life are John 6:53-63; II Corinthians 3:6, Galatians 3:21, and Romans 6:1-8:13.

At this point a note of clarification should be inserted. When we say that the unregenerate man's spirit is dead, we do not mean that his spirit is non-existent, or that it lies dormant and inactive until made alive. Rather, we affirm that the unregenerate man has a spirit (or is a spirit united to a physical body), and that his spirit is very active in transgressions and sins, as we have seen in Ephesians 2:1-6. But at the same time that the man's spirit exists and is active in the pursuit of evil, it is spiritually dead. The unregenerate person's spirit is dead to the true knowledge of God, dead to the things of God, and dead to true righteousness and holiness. He is dead spiritually even while he is alive physically and emotionally. The Spirit's act of regeneration makes him spiritually alive!

Taking these scriptures and considerations into account, the following summary statement of the new life would appear to be warranted:

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.

Aspect Three: Regeneration as a New Creation

As soon as we speak of a new creation, we are reminded of mankind's original creation. Accordingly we look first at the Genesis account.

1. Genesis 1:26-27 -- (NASB) "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 his creation, man was created upright, with righteousness and holiness, and with a personal knowledge of God. But man fell, lost his original uprightness, lost righteousness and holiness, and lost the true knowledge of God. All human beings, except for the Lord Jesus Christ, were included in the sinful effects of the Fall.

2. II Corinthians 5:17 -- "So that if anyone is in Christ, he is (or there is) a new creature (or creation) (καινή κτίσις). The old things have passed away (τὰ ραῖα παρῆλθεν), behold, new things have come into being (ἰδοὺ γέγονεν καινά)." Does this