

mean that the regenerated man has no remnant of sin in him? Does it mean that he no longer has the same physical body? We must reply in the negative to both of these questions. However, whether we understand this verse to mean that the regenerate man is himself a new creature, or that the creation around him appears new to him, in either case . Is greatly changed. He is different, and the way in which he views things is different.

3. Galatians 6:15 -- "For neither is circumcision or uncircumcision anything, but a new creation (καινή κτίσις)." What matters is not whether a man is a Jew or a Gentile, but whether he is a new creation in Christ.

4. Ephesians 2:10 -- "For we are what He has made, having been created in Christ Jesus (κτισθέντες ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ) for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we should walk in them." The phrase "created . . . for good works" shows the connection between Christian character and Christian conduct.

5. Colossians 3:10 -- "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 (τὸν νέον τὸν νακκινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν)." Originally, God created man in His image. Now He re-creates man in His image. One aspect of that image is the true knowledge of God, in which we are progressively being renewed, as we grow to know Him personally more fully each day.

6. Ephesians 4:24 -- "And put on the new man, which according to God was created (τὸν κατὰ θεὸν κτισθέντα) in righteousness and true holiness." Just as man lost righteousness and holiness at the Fall, so he begins to regain them at regeneration.

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

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.

Aspect Four: Regeneration as a New Nature

1. I Corinthians 2:14 -- "But the unspiritual man (Ψυχικὸς δὲ ἄνθρωπος) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to know (them), because they are judged spiritually (ὅτι πνευματικῶς νακρίνεται)." .

Here we have pictured a man who does not have the Spirit of God, who is natural and unregenerate, and whose nature prevents him from looking at things differently. Paul says that he is not able to know the things of God's Spirit.

2. Ephesians 2:3 -- "We were by nature children of wrath (ἡμεθα τέκνα φύσει ὀργῆς)." .

Paul says that at one time we were all children of wrath; i.e., children who deserved and stood under God's wrath and condemnation, rather than children of joy and approval. And we were objects of God's wrath by nature; i.e., by what we were.