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Newsletter – January 2012 – David Charney

Regeneration

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

A New Year is upon us! It is amazing to think that it is going to be 2012. I can still remember thinking that that it was strange that we are in the 21st century and now we are twelve years into the century. Every new year brings about the resolutions and changes that we all hope to accomplish this year. I hope that this year that we all seek to realize who we are in Christ. Too often we are so comfortable with the world and flesh that we do not even seek to realize our true identity that Christ is giving us. When we believe that Christ is our Lord and Savior, then we ARE a new creation. The issue comes when we stay in the old and not step into the life that Christ has already won for us through his death and resurrection. This is called regeneration and is what God gives us through the work of His Son.

I have been reading about regeneration in a book that is raw and unabashedly honest. This book is titled Religion Saves And Nine Other Misconceptions by Mark Driscoll. He gives three truths about regeneration on page 168:

“Three very important truths help to illuminate regeneration in the New Testament.

- (1) It is vital to understand that regeneration is done to ill-deserving, not just undeserving, sinners. Therefore, regeneration is a gift of grace, as Titus 3:5 says: “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”
- (2) Regeneration is something God the Holy Spirit does for us. Therefore, unless God accomplishes regeneration in people, it is impossible for them to live the Christian life.
- (3) Without regeneration there is no possibility of eternal life in God’s kingdom. Therefore, regeneration is required for someone to be a true Christian.”

It can be clearly seen that regeneration is a vital part of our faith and should not be forgotten. What we need to realize is that by becoming regenerated is that we have many new aspects to our life. This is all a part of your identity and should be realized for this new year. When you become regenerated through the work of our Triune God, then you have a new Lord, a new identity, a new mind, new emotions, new desires, a new community, a new power, new freedom, and a new life. All of this is given to you, but do you rely on it. Take this as your resolution for 2012. It means that you do not have to work harder or do something. It means you rely on Christ for your transformation. Take the time through prayer to ask God to show you that he has already done this for you. Remind yourself often what God has done for you and the identity that God has given you. Seek God through worship at our church every Sunday. When Jesus becomes your Lord and Savior, you have been regenerated to be a new creation. Now this is a resolution that we need to seek out. Happy New Year!

- David Charney, Assistant Rector