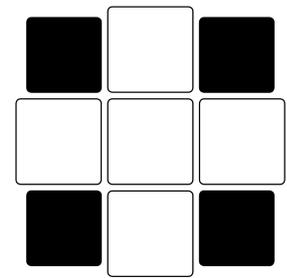


God Calls Irresistibly

Scripture: **2 Peter 1:1**

Series: **The Doctrines of Grace**

Sunday, March 5, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

As believers, it is important to contemplate an important question: “Why did we choose Jesus?” How does it come about that someone who is corrupted by sin and spiritually dead can make a decision to trust in Jesus? How can a spiritually dead heart be made alive? The truth is, God must change a person’s heart in such a way that they now have an inclination toward God. Without a desire for Jesus, no one will choose Jesus. Therefore it is God’s work of regeneration that recreates us and makes our hearts spiritually alive. Once our hearts are made alive, we will see our need for Jesus and put our faith in Him. Jesus calls this being “born again” (John 3:3). **The work of regeneration is what makes us; the doctrine of regeneration is what keeps us.** Ultimately, we believe in Jesus because that believe has been granted to us by the Father.

Corroborating Texts

Titus 3:4-7; John 3:1-15; Matthew 16:13-17; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:17; John 17:17; John 6:44; John 6:63-65

Discussion Questions

1. Prior to Joe’s sermon on Sunday, had you heard or been taught the doctrine of irresistible grace? If so, what did you think it meant? If not, what was your immediate reaction to it? Why is this an important doctrine to understand?
2. Prior to Joe’s sermon, what did you think about the doctrine of regeneration? Did you think it meant the regeneration of the believer after they put their faith in Jesus? Based on Joe’s sermon, why is it important to understand that regeneration precedes faith? [faith is the *fruit* of regeneration, not the cause of it.]
3. Prior to Joe’s sermon, what was your understanding of being born again? Why is it important to make the connection between the work of regeneration and being born again?
4. Prior to Joe’s sermon, what did you think Jesus meant in John 3:5 regarding being “born of water and the Spirit?” What did you think born of water meant in this context? Did the sermon change your understanding of it? [in this context, water symbolizes cleansing and renewal.]
5. How is the passage in Ezekiel 36:25-27 a depiction of the work of regeneration as well as a foreshadowing of the gospel?
6. If the work of regeneration is what makes us and the doctrine of regeneration is what keeps us, then how does it keep us? What impact should this have on our faith and our witness?