

Community Group Notes for Sunday 29th November 2009

“In”

This Thursday evening we have our monthly Encounter & Prayer night where we call all our community groups together. No group meetings this week.

“Out” by Melanie Crane

It's a busy couple of months and we want to help you make the most out of the events we have planned. ...

Crafty Christmas and our Christmas Carol happen in December so have a **THINK** now about who to invite to what. Christmas is easy because in this nation people still like to go to church at Christmas. If you have friends with children why not invite them to Crafty Christmas or think about serving at the event – we need you! How about making a giant list now of people you want to invite to our Christmas Carol and then start praying they would say yes and come. **ASK** the right people to the right events. For any help with this ask me!!!

On Saturday 12th December we are in Jackson Square with the choir and the drama team and I would love some of you to join me and hand out Christmas Carol fliers – ask your small group and let me know if you want to join me!!!

I would love to know what you are getting up to so please text: 07929791382 or mail melanie@thecommunitychurch.org.uk

Events Coming Up...

Saturday 5th December – **Crafty Christmas** 11-2 at the Charis Centre

Saturday 12th December – **On the Streets in Jackson Square** 10-12pm in Jackson Square

Sunday 20th December - **Christmas Carol Services** 3:30pm, 6:00pm or 8:00pm @ The Charis Centre

This Sunday...

Peter will be continuing his series Designer Living based on Genesis 1-9

Notes from Transformed Part 2: Born Again



Recommended Reading for series

- Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem: Part 5 chapters 31-43
OR
- Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem: Part 5 chapters 17-25

Recommended Reading for this Sermon

- Evangelism and Sovereignty of God - J I Packer
- Finally Alive - John Piper

Order of Salvation

- Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
- **The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)**
- **Regeneration (being born again)**
- Conversion (faith and repentance)
- Justification (right legal standing with God)
- Adoption (membership in God's family)
- Sanctification (right conduct in life)
- Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
- Death (going to be with the Lord)
- Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

1. THE GOSPEL CALL

Romans 8:30 - ***And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified***

A. Effective Calling

- **Bible talks about God calling us**
 - 1 Peter 2:9, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 Thessalonians 2:12 Romans 1:6
- **We are called to...**
 - be Saints (Rom 1:7, 1 Cor 1:2)
 - Peace (1 Cor 7:15, Col 3:15)
 - Freedom (Gal 5:13)
 - Hope (Eph 1:18, 4:4)
 - Holiness (1 Thess 4:7)
 - Patient endurance of suffering (1 Peter 2:20-21, 3:9)
 - Eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)
- This is the summons of the King not merely a human call and this call **guarantees** a response (see Rom 8:30)
- This is referred to as **effective calling** as opposed to general call which some reject
- God's effective call come through human gospel proclamation (2 Thess 2:14)
- Effective calling = ***is an act of God the Father, speaking through human proclamation of the gospel, in which he summon as people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith.***
- This response to this calling is **voluntary** (see Acts 16:14, Acts 10:44)

B. The Elements of the Gospel Call

- **Explanation of the facts concerning salvation**
 - All people have sinned (Romans 3:23)
 - The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - Jesus paid the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8)
- **Invitation to respond to Christ personally in repentance and faith**
 - Matt 11:28-30 , John 1:11-12 Response involves repentance (Acts 20:21) see also (Luke 24:47, Acts 2:37-38, 3:19, 5:31, 17:30)
- **A promise of forgiveness and eternal life**
 - Primary promise is eternal life (see John 3:16)
 - This comes with an assurance (John 6:37)

C. Importance of the Gospel Call

- If there was no call then no one would be saved (Romans 10:14)

2. REGENERATION

John 3:3 *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God*

Regeneration = **is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us**

Regeneration in NT

- Word only appears twice in the Bible (Matthew 19:28, Titus 3:5)

Old Testament Regeneration and the New Heart

- In the Bible the heart is seen as the seat and centre of our identity, the essence of our total inner self, which expresses itself outwardly in word and deed
- OT talks of regeneration as a work of the heart (Deut 30:6, Jeremiah 24:7, Jeremiah 31:31-33, Jeremiah 32:39-40, Ezekiel 11:19-20, Ezekiel 36:25-27)

New Testament Regeneration and the New Birth

- NT image is of being born again (John 1:13, 1 Peter 1:3, 23, 1 John 5:11)
- Also: partakers in divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), new man (Ephesians 2:15, 4:24), alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5, Col 2:13), created in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:10)
- This "new birth" is what ALL Christians go through in becoming a Christian – using phrase "born again" Christian is like saying a "round" circle

A. Regeneration is totally a work of God

- Done to ill-deserving not just undeserving sinners therefore it is a gift of grace (Titus 3:5)
- We play no active role - image of being "born again" shows this (John 1:13, James 1:18)
- We did not chose to be made physically and we did not chose to be born spiritually - something happened to us
- God the Holy Spirit is the one who produces regeneration (born of the Spirit in John 3:8) therefore can only be accomplished by God
- Regeneration comes as a result of effective calling (see Cornelius in Acts 10:44 and Lydia Acts 16:44)
- Required to become a Christian - no new life without it

B. The Exact Nature of regeneration is a mystery to us

- Although spiritually dead people are now alive we are not sure how or what exactly happens - (See John 3:3-8)
- All of us is effected by regeneration not just our spirits (2 Cor 5:17)
- It is an instantaneous event - it happens only once - but not sure of exact moment.

C. Genuine Regeneration Must Bring Results in Life

- **Ten Aspects of Regeneration**
 - 1. New Lord
 - 2. New Creation (2 Cor 5:17)
 - 3. New Identity (Eph 4:22-24)
 - 4. New Mind (1 Corinthians 2:14-16, 1 Peter 2:2, Romans 7:22)
 - 5. New Emotions (1 John 4:7)
 - 6. New Desires (Galatians 5:16-17, Romans 7:4-6)
 - 7. New Community - Citizens in God's Kingdom (Eph 2:19-20), members of God's family (Eph 2:19-20), temple of God's presence (Eph 2:22), parts of a body (Romans 12:5)
 - 8. New Power - Holy Spirit as our helper (John 14:26, 16:7) and teacher (John 16:13) see also Romans 8:4-13 and Ephesians 5:18
 - 9. New Freedom (Romans 6:6, 7:6)
 - 10. New Life (Galatians 5:19-23)
- These are necessary results in the lives of those who are born again
- Other results of regeneration are the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and works (James 2)
- Those not regenerated will be like Matthew 7:15-20 – bad fruit