



Section 4: Concerning Salvation/Regeneration (Cont.)

Question 7: What is the primary evidence of the new birth?

Answer 7: The primary evidence of the new birth in the life of the believer is love.

Memory Verse: **1 John 4:7**

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

Support Verses: **1 John 4:8**

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Discussion Points:

1. His image restored in us:

- The work of regeneration (the new birth as discussed in the last lesson) in the life of the believer is completely the work of God, and as such should have the evidence or signature of God on it.
- Remember, in the new birth, God is making in you or restoring in you His image that was lost as a result of sin.
- The primary attribute that is displayed by God in His work of regeneration is that by which He is known best... God is love.
- The connection is so close between the image of God as love, and our restoration in that image, that the product of the regeneration, which is "to know" God, is said to not exist, unless it is evidenced in the believer's life.
- So when regeneration occurs, therefore, we gain that attribute of God again that is unique to His being and is a primary distinction of man from the rest of creation.



2. His image produced:

- The Bible speaks very explicitly about this evidence restored in us and calls it the "fruit of the Spirit."
- By using the illustration of fruit, the implication is that there will be something to show for.
- The primary fruit that is produced by the Spirit in the life of the believer is that fruit which is exemplified by God in his sacrifice on the cross to provide us with eternal life... Love.
- In fact, this fruit is said to be the determining evidence that we have been born again.
- This evidence of the new birth is also a powerful testimony to the lost man of the work of regeneration in us by the Holy Spirit of God.
- Furthermore, this evidence testifies to our fellow believers that we are actual brethren, and are abiding in Christ.
- And finally this evidence testifies to the Lord that we are willing and obedient children.

3. His expectation:

- The Lord Jesus manifested this example of love for us by His sacrifice.
- And the act of love we show him and others, is actually the expectation of our Savior for us.
- Consider 1 Corinthians 13:2-3

Notes:

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs:

- "And Can It Be?" (Hymn #111 - Rejoice Hymns)
- "How Deep The Father's Love For Us" (Hymn #106 - Rejoice Hymns)