

**Canons of Dort, Head 3&4:11-13: “Regeneration”**

Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 1

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| <b>Lesson Aim</b>        | To understand two things, first, what regeneration is and second, how it is worked in God’s people.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Steps to Learning</b> | Read the Canons of Dort, Heads 3&4, articles 11-13 and 1 Peter 1. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Discuss</b>           | <p><b>What do we first need to understand about human nature before we talk about regeneration?</b></p> <p>We need to understand that all people are dead in their transgressions and sins according to Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 2. “Dead in transgressions and sins” means that people will never have faith in Christ for salvation in and of themselves.</p> <p><b>The Canons are responding to an error in Arminian theology. What is the error?</b></p> <p>The Arminians believed, basically, in a word, that people while sinful were more sick than dead. Therefore, the Arminians (and many professed Christians today) believe that people can simply decide for God or not.</p> <p><b>The Canons, summarizing the Scriptures, state that God must regenerate a person so that he is converted. What is regeneration?</b></p> <p>Regeneration is the work of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the Word, to make a person new in heart and mind and will. It is God raising a person from the deadness of sin to eternal life.</p> <p><b>When is a person, ordinarily, regenerated?</b></p> <p>The Canons of Dort in our section today, as well as the Heidelberg Catechism question and answer 65 and the Belgic Confession, article 24, in summarizing the Scriptures, state that it happens when the Word of God, the Gospel, is preached and the Holy works to grant true faith. The Scriptures teaching that people are regenerated or born again through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit are: Ezekiel chapter 37, Ephesians 6:17, James 1:18, 1 Peter 1:23 (“one is born again by the living and abiding word of God”) and Romans 10:17.</p> |
| <b>Bible Reading</b>     | Genesis 4 and 5 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |