

## Birth, Marriage, Death – Three Views of Conversion

- Intro
- 1) Jesus – Master Teacher
    - a. Made use of common experiences (Farming, Fishing)
    - b. Taught the most profound of truths –  
(God, Eternity, Eternal Life)
  - 2) When he taught about conversion, he used the most common of experiences to explain that too.
    - a. Small town newspaper – news items vary (Special events, tragedies, crops)  
  
BUT
      - b. Three news items in every paper with which every person identifies.
        1. Births
        2. Marriages                      The three most frequently discussed events of life.
        3. Deaths
      - c. Jesus chose these three common experiences to describe the issue of conversion.

### I. Conversion is a process like a birth.

- A. Matt. 18:3-5                      Jesus used the purity and innocence  
Matt. 19:14                      of a babe to illustrate conversion.
- B. John 3:1-8                      Jesus taught Nicodemus regarding New Birth
  1. Necessary for salvation.
  2. Birth process involves:
    - a. Virile, potent seed – Luke 8:11
      - i. Parable of the Sower.
      - ii. “The Seed is sown in the heart.”

- iii. The heart must be ready to receive the implanted Word.
  - 1. Jas 1:21-22 – Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls – But, be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves.”
  - 2. I Pet. 1:22-23 – “Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth . . . having begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God which liveth and abideth.” (seed, receptacle)

c. Time for embryonic development:

- i. Hearing      The seed is implanted
- ii. Faith      “Comes by hearing . . . word”  
(Rom. 10:17)  
“Without faith, impossible . . .”  
(Heb. 11:6)
- iii. Repentance      Inner changing of attitude and heart  
(II Cor. 7:10) “For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation.”
- iv. Baptism      The New Birth; culmination of the embryo process.
  - a. Acts 2:27-38 – “When they heard this, they were pricked . . . said to Peter and rest of apostles . . . Repent . . .”
  - b. Notice – they had heard, they believed, they were sorry for their sins. So – repent; baptism; Spirit.
  - c. Jn. 3:5 – “Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, except one born of the water and the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”

- d. Titus 3:5 – “. . . he saved us through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.” (New Birth)

C. Conversion is a Process like a Birth.

1. The seed, the word of God, is essential to process. “In Christ Jesus you are begotten through the gospel.” (I Cor. 4:15)
2. Baptism, the washing of regeneration, is the New Birth. “Born of water and the Spirit” (Jn. 3:5)

II. Conversion is a Relationship like a Marriage.

A. Mt. 22:2 “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king who made a marriage feast for his son.” (Who is this? Who involved?)

1. Jn. 3:28-30 John the immerser compared himself to the “friend of the Bridegroom.”

Jesus identified as the Bridegroom.

2. In Rom. 7:2-4 Paul used the figure of Christians being married to Christ.

- a. II Cor. 1:2 “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

- b. Why compare conversion to marriage?

B. Marriage illustrates the relationship of conversion (husband – wife)

1. Eph. 5:22-27 & 32 – READ

- a. Christ is head.
- b. Christian is subject to (in subjection)
- c. Christ loved you, gave self for you.
- d. Christ will purify you – chaste, blushing bride – spotless, sinless.

2. Conversion is a process like birth.
3. Conversion is a relationship like marriage.

III. Conversion is a Termination like Death.

A. In the scriptures, death is considered to have taken place when there has been a separation.

1. Physically – Jas. 2:26 “The body without the Spirit is dead.”
2. Spiritually
  - a. Eph. 2:1 Sinners described as being “dead through trespasses and sins.”
  - b. Why?  
Isa. 59:2 “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”

B. Likewise, there is a sense in which Conversion involves a Death, a Separation, and a Termination of something.

1. Rom 6:3-6 – READ
  - a. We died to sin – old man crucified.  
II Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
  - b. We died with Christ – shall be raised with Him.

2. Rom. 6:16-18 – READ  
Form – Death, burial, resurrection

3. So, Conversion is a Termination like Death.

Concl. 1) How about you today?

Have you: Died to your old self?  
Been born again – a New Creation?  
Been married to Christ – His spotless bride?

You have – if you “obeyed from the heart that form of teaching” committed to you.

