



CHRISTIANITY IN CULTURE



Joining God in the Renewal of All Things

A SEMINAR WITH ED STETZER



ED STETZER *Scholar in Residence*

The Way God Changes the World:
New Life and New Birth in Christ

FedEx

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The Amazon logo, featuring the word "amazon" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the text is a curved orange arrow that starts under the 'a' and points towards the 'n', resembling a smile.



The Origin Story:

In the beginning... (John 1:1)

John is telling a new creation story.

On the sixth day, Friday:

Jesus is presented before Pilate (“Behold the Man!”)

Corresponding to the sixth day of creation when God admired his handiwork in creating Adam.

On the seventh Day, Saturday:

God rests. Jesus in the grave.

On the eight day, Sunday morning:

Dark outside, the women approach the tomb, first day of new creation, Jesus is risen.

Mary confuses Jesus for the Gardener.

He is the Last Adam, and He's in the Garden once again.

Sunday night:

New creation extended when Jesus breathes on His disciples, giving them the Spirit, the breath of new life.

Conversation with Nicodemus

John 3

Soteriology

1. A World of Life and Death
2. The Source of Life (Generation): God

God is Life:

But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and eternal King... (Jeremiah 10:10)

God Gives Life:

Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.
(Genesis 2:7)

3. The Source of Death (Degeneration): Sin

And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”
(Genesis 2:16-17)

4. The Source of Salvation (Regeneration): Gospel

The Need for New Life (John 3:1-3)

There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4. The Source of Salvation (Regeneration): Gospel

The Gift of New Life (John 3:4-8)

“How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

4. The Source of Salvation (Regeneration): Gospel

The Gift of New Life (John 3:4-8)

Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

4. The Source of Salvation (Regeneration): Gospel

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

The Process of New Life

How God Saves Sinners (Ordo Salutis):

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30)

Election: God Chooses to Save Us

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will... (Ephesians 1:3-5)

Regeneration: God Gives Us a New, Living Heart

...because you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of imperishable—through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)

We Repent and Believe

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news! (Mark 1:15)

Justification:

God Pronounces Us “Not Guilty” and “Righteous”

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets. The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Justification:

God Pronounces Us “Not Guilty” and “Righteous”

God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)

He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness
of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Adoption: God Adopts Us as His Children

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

Sanctification: We Become More Like Jesus

For this is God's will, your sanctification...
(1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Preservation: God Keeps Us with Him

I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

Glorification: God Makes Us Finally and Fully New

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:52-53)

5. God's Mission to Bring Life to the World

God changes the world one life at a time.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3)

