

## CONTRASTING THE PHYSICAL BLOOD OF JESUS WITH HIS SPIRITUAL BLOOD

The shed physical blood of Jesus makes all people have access to regeneration. But it is the spiritual blood of Jesus that we must cooperate with and have poured out upon us and into us in order to be regenerated. When Jesus tells us to eat His flesh and drink His blood, He is referring to His spiritual flesh and spiritual blood. His spiritual flesh is the Bread from Heaven and His spiritual blood is His Holy Spirit. Life is in the blood. It is the Spirit who gives life. Jesus' physical blood shed gives us access to regeneration. Jesus' spiritual blood, the Holy Spirit, regenerates those who believe in Jesus and receive Him as Lord and Savior. Jesus said, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life." John 6:54

Jesus calls the Spirit the "water of life." "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:13 "Come, whoever is thirsty, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17b "Whoever believes in Me, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this He meant the Spirit." John 7:38, 39a

The water of life and the spiritual lifeblood of Jesus is the Holy Spirit. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. The physical blood of Jesus shed for us gives access to God. The spiritual blood of Jesus is the white blood-washing work of the indwelling Spirit. "Believers washed their robes and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This blood of the Lamb is the Spirit poured out upon and into those who believe in Jesus.

"We are saved by His life." Romans 5:10b It is the life giving, resurrection power, Holy Spirit of God that regenerates us. The shed physical blood of Jesus is the blood which gives access to God, but it is the spiritual blood of Jesus, the water of life, the resurrection power, which regenerates believers.

Calvinists and Arminians have missed the foundational truth of the Cross. They both attribute regeneration to the physical blood shed at the cross which results in their wrong definitions of election. In Scripture, regeneration is attributed to the work of the Spirit and is given as the sinner cooperates with the Spirit and believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior. In Scripture the elect are only the elect after they are "in Christ." Election did not happen at the Cross. Believers in Jesus become the elect and election is to service.

