

Psalm 51:1-10 (Txt V5) - Baby Gabrielle Needs Regeneration

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: A sure way to get into trouble in our modern society is to describe babies as wretches in need of regeneration. You might even get into trouble in some churches for saying this! People are mad at you for saying that, you feel bad because you hurt their feelings, and the Devil is glad because then he knows those people have bought his lie – hook, line, and sinker (完全地).

Yet, God speaks with clarity concerning the nature of your child, what your child's greatest need is, and how to meet your child's greatest need. He wants you to pay careful attention.

Our headings are:

Covenant Babies are Sinful from their Core.

Covenant Babies need regeneration from their Core.

Covenant Babies are regenerated by Jesus Christ from the Core.

Our goals are: **That seeing the full weight of your children's sinfulness, you will look for the spiritual cure from the one who promised regeneration to them.**

Covenant Babies are Sinful from their Core

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity 罪孽, And in sin my mother conceived 怀孕 me (warm me).

1. From the time your baby was formed and kept in your womb (where he was warm), he was in sin and sin was in him. He is rightly called a sinful creature. Even though a child does not consciously 自觉 commit sin yet, he is defiled 玷污.

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

2. How is sin passed on to your child? Sin came from Adam. Adam was the natural head of the human race, but he was more. He was the representative head of the covenant 盟约 people. Because Adam sinned **as his children's representative**, God imputed Adam's sin to them. Because of this, all Adam's natural children, except for the Lord Jesus, were born in a corrupt state, including this sweet baby who was baptized today. God considers Gabrielle to be guilty and polluted because of Adam's, and then Kevin's and Nadia's sins.

3. The sins that you passed to your children is called "original sin." That single sin is imputed to your child and it is enough to condemn 谴责 him to hell forever. Because of this original pollution, your child has, as theologians consider it, "a positive disposition" toward sin. He naturally wants to follow that sinful nature. Your child may not be as bad as his nature wants, but only because God restricts him. Many people disagree with the doctrine 教义 or "original sin," but it is explained in the Scriptures.

1Kings 8:46 "When they sin against You (**for there is no one who does not sin**), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take

them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near;

Jeremiah 17:9 "**The heart is deceitful** 狡詐 above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Romans 7:18 For **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells** 居住; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.
23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Romans 3:12 "**They have all turned aside**, they are become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not so much as one."

John 1:8 "**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us."

This is clearly consistent with what David said in Psalm 51. David understood that the core of his being was corrupted from very early on – even from his mother’s womb.

4. Further, your child is not only guilty of original sin, he consciously and willingly adds to his condemnation by his own natural choice to sin. That stream of original sin leads to an ocean of personal sins. You have inward sins and outward sins, subtle 细微 sins and blatant 明显的 sins, sins of ignorance and sins of mature deliberation 老谋深算, and sins such as pride, envy, hatred, sensual lusts, deceit, theft, murder and adultery. That was David’s point: His adultery with Bathsheba was consistent with the nature he already had in his mother’s warm womb.

Covenant Babies Need Regeneration from their Core

1. Because of the sinful nature of babies from the time of conception, and **because they add to their sins** everyday by their personal sins, sins of thoughts, words, and deeds, and **because they are dead** in sin and under condemnation, **babies need to be regenerated.**

2. So be careful not to think that your baby simply needs to learn to be obedient – learn good manners, learn to say “thank you,” learn to share, learn to wait his turn when playing a game, learn to be respectful of adults, learn not to interrupt his parents when they are talking, learn to get good grades in school, learn good social skills—as if those were the kind of change he needs. No, your baby needs a radical 根本的 work in his heart— he needs nothing short of full regeneration.

Covenant Babies are Regenerated by Jesus Christ from their Core

1. Only the blood of the Lord washes away sins in the soul of your child. The Lord promised and assured his children that he would save them and their households **through his keeping of the covenant** for them, and through **his shedding of his blood for their covenant breaking**. Some argue that infants can’t ask for forgiveness and therefore they cannot be forgiven. But forgiveness of sins is God’s gift. Forgiveness is not based on what you do. God forgives whomever he wills.

2a. This work of washing away sins starts (but is not restricted to) when he is brought into the covenant at infancy 婴儿期. But don’t misunderstand. Being in the covenant doesn’t save your child (or adults). Yet

the covenant is the place where God pours on his blessings upon his him. In the covenant God appointed under-shepherds in the home and in the church to care for his lambs. Eg: An unbelieving spouse is blessed on account of his spouse being in the covenant.

1Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified 圣化 by the wife, and **the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband**; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

Similarly, your child is blessed through his parents in the covenant. (Your child was cursed through his parents, why couldn't he be blessed through them?) This was always God's promise.

Deuteronomy 30:6 "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the **heart of your descendants**, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **that you may live**.

God never leaves his covenant child out and treats him as a viper 毒蛇 in diaper. God considers him holy-separate.

Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate 奉献 a fast, Call a sacred assembly; 16 Gather the people, Sanctify 圣化 the congregation, Assemble the elders, **Gather the children and nursing babes**; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

2b. Specifically, your child first experiences the work of Jesus Christ in his baptism. You should gladly and urgently bring your child forward for baptism. Those who argue that there is no explicit command to baptize children err 犯错 grievously 悲伤, for God explicitly commands the child be marked by the covenant sign and threatened death upon the child and the parents for not having the sign of the covenant sign. (Genesis 17:14) Applying the sign of the covenant to a child was so strongly assumed, that it was not even necessary to restate that which was beyond doubt in the New Testament. And since the covenant sign of circumcision was no longer necessary, Christ becoming your circumcision that made you clean, you simply use the new sign for your children – a beautiful non-bloody sign.

2c. How can covenant baptism be a means of grace to strengthen your child?

a. At baptism, God **visibly puts his covenant promises on your child**. Through his parents' obedience to baptize and to teach their child, the child is blessed. (Furthermore, if your covenant child dies in infancy, on account of your faith in God's promises, you don't need to worry about his salvation.)

b. Later, **when the child understands the significance of baptism, it will strengthen his faith** knowing God separated him and blessed him from the very beginning of his life.

3. But you are not to presume that your child is saved by Jesus Christ because he entered the covenant by baptism. Baptism doesn't save. That is presumptive 推定 regeneration – a false doctrine. That is like pointing your figure to God and saying: "**You will save my child because of who I am**." Rather, must look to God's goodness, God's promises, and God's assurances that **he will regenerate your child through faith**. Being in the covenant brings your child in close relationship with God. **If your child refuses to hold on to the promises of God, then he only has himself to blame for his condemnation** to hell.

4a. God clarified that children were saved by Jesus Christ and were members of his church, even before Jesus came.

Galatians 3:29 And if you are Christ's, **then you are Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise.

How terrible...how sinful...how arrogant...that Baptists exclude children from the church whom Christ lovingly welcomes. They can't sing: "*Jesus loves me this I know*" because they don't know if it is true. But

Jesus would not tolerate ill-treatment of the ones he had forgiven. He did not even allow ill-treatment of his children from his disciples.

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid 禁止 them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is to you **and to your children**, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

More importantly, God does not get more restrictive in the covenant...but is more gracious... It would make no sense to limit children from being members of the covenant, especially since they already were members of the Old Testament church. If children were not members of the covenant, **it would mean that they are in a worse place in the New Covenant.** (See why it is not good to marry a Baptist. You will have different views of your children.) Even in Old Testament prophecy concerning the spread of the kingdom to the Gentiles, God notably included the children of believers.

Isaiah 54:13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And **great shall be the peace of your children.**

God addressed children personally as covenant keepers. Ex 20:12 The writer of Hebrews mentioned that even the youngest ones in the land would know the Lord. That is why there were always household baptisms in the New Testament.

Hebrews 8:11 "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, **from the least of them to the greatest of them.**

4b. What happens if you treat children as non-believers, as Baptists do? You would logically have to conclude that all young children who die (or alive when Christ returns) will go to hell. But because Baptists don't want to say that children dying in infancy will go to hell, they then redefine children as pure and clean...and that children who die in infancy become angels, or some other such false doctrines. What inconsistency! **But how wonderful is the consistency of Reformed doctrine.** We understand how sinful we are...all of us...man, woman, and child, and we know that all of us...man, woman, and child, **have to be regenerated through Jesus Christ alone.** But no one gets a free pass into heaven!

Conclusion:

Your child is born in sin and starts to sin from his birth. He is sinful in the core of his being. He must therefore be cured from the core of his being, something only Jesus Christ can do. That saving process starts with the children being brought into the covenant and receiving God's promises.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Never forget the full sinfulness of your child. When you get the full sense of his sin, you will see the urgent and persistent 一贯 need to train him in the way of the Lord. You will pray without ceasing for him. You will tirelessly teach him truth. He will constantly hear of the love and saving work of Jesus Christ. He will listen to talk about how to apply the Word of God to his life. You will give priority to worship and you will never let him miss Sunday worship for frivolous 糊涂的 reasons. You will make sure he has good friends who will influence him to do good things. And you will add salt into his stinking waters that he may be purified – even as Elisha did. (2Ki 2) I hope you have no doubt about your child's sinfulness and his need for Jesus Christ,

and may God forgive me if I made you think your child is better than he really is!

Finally, it is not a popular thing to say these days, but if you are not regenerated by God's Holy Spirit you have no hope. You might be nice, but that is not good enough for you to have eternal life-life that begins on earth and continues in heaven. Why not ask God to change your heart and make you his child today?