

Question 40

Name _____

Q40. Who can change a sinner's heart?

A40. The Holy Spirit alone.

Scripture Base: Ezek. 36: 25-27, 37:1-14;

John 3; Rom 8:7; Titus 3:5

Doctrine: WCF 10:2 SC 29 - 31

Supplementary Questions

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

2. Why is the Holy Spirit the One who changes our hearts?

Song: "Jesus Our Redeemer" by Judy Rogers

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" Psalm 51

Teaching Notes

Review: Q39 What is a change of heart called? – *Regeneration*

Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-27, 37:1-14

Questions:

1. He is the Third Person of the Triune God: **review Q6, 7& 8**. He is called by several names in Scripture. (This may familiarize them with the Spirit and His work.) **(i) The Spirit:** "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words" (Rom. 8:26).

(ii) The Holy Spirit: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" (John 14:26).

(iii) The Spirit of God: "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you" (Rom. 8:9).

(iv) The Spirit of Christ: "But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (Rom. 8:9).

2. Each person of the Godhead has His part in salvation: The **Father** chose whom He would save (Eph. 1:3-4) & sent His Son to save them (John 3:16). The **Son** came to obey & die for those the Father chose (His sheep; John 10:15). The **Spirit** applies the work of Christ to those whom the Father chose (John 3:8; the Spirit breathes where He wills).

The Spirit is called **the Holy Spirit** because He is holy and works holiness in God's people. When the Spirit applies Christ to someone, He unites Himself with that person's soul and begins to work His own moral nature (holiness) in them (Gal. 5:22-23). He gives them love for the things He loves and hatred for the things He hates by becoming in them a new principle of life (a new motivation) (Rom. 8:2; the "law of the Spirit of life" is the Spirit working in us as a new principle of life).

Gospel: Are you able to change your own heart and make yourself love God? No, "because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Rom. 8:7-8). Only the Spirit can make this change in your heart. **What is this change of heart called?** Regeneration or the new birth. How can you know whether the Spirit has changed your heart and given you this new birth? You may only know if you love God and the things of God, and hate the things God hates (review the Gospel questions from last time). If this is true of you, you will be trusting in Jesus, turning from your sins, and doing the things He wants you to do.

Extras: *Memory verse: Titus 3:5 - Fill in the blanks.*

Songs: Track 12 - "Jesus Our Redeemer" and Psalm 51