

Wesleyan Theological Society

Call for Papers

Thirty-First Annual Meeting
November 3-4, 1995
Northwest Nazarene College
Nampa, Idaho

THEME: Sanctification and the New Creation

The Program Committee is soliciting papers that will explore the concept of new creation in terms of a) the larger process of sanctification as adjudged by various theological traditions, b) its relation to social and political action as well as the value judgments entailed once a relation is established (Is political action the end or goal of the new creation or does the latter have yet a higher purpose? c) its relation to the created order which will include not only other species beyond *homo sapiens*, but the entire natural realm as well.

Possible Topics

1. **Biblical Issues:** What are the Johannine and Pauline understandings of the new birth? What similarities and differences can be noted, and what contribution does each perspective make to the larger teaching of the New Testament? What is "new" about the new birth? Why is it necessary? What is the larger significance of Paul's use of the phrase *καὶνὴ κτίσις* in 2 Cor. 5:17 and Gal. 6:15? Is Paul's conception similar to the notion of a new heaven and a new earth as found in the Apocalypse or to the *παλιγγενεσία* in Matthew 19:28?

2. **Historical Issues:** Did Wesley tie the marks or characteristics of regeneration to his understanding of real Christianity? If so, what is the larger significance of this linkage? Was there any development in Wesley's views on this score? In what way, and to what extent, were Wesley's views on the new birth, and the larger process of sanctification, shaped and nurtured by his readings of Catholic theologians (both Greek and Roman), Anglican divines, Continental Pietists, and others? How does Wesley explore the motif of the new creation in ways which break out of an anthropocentric orientation? How, in other words, is soteriology construed so as to include the entire created order?

Did the holiness movement, during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, misprize regeneration in its concern for the promotion of entire sanctification? If so, what effect did this judgment have on the movement's soteriology, and in particular, on its assessment of the nature of the practical Christian life?

3. **Theological Issues:** Is the relation between the new birth and entire sanctification aptly expressed in the relation between crisis and process, realization and ongoing development? Does regeneration take place at infant baptism? What is the connection between the new birth and social and political justice? Has contemporary theology neglected the doctrine of regeneration? What are the ingredients of a Wesleyan ecological theology? Is there a linkage between regeneration and ecology, between a personal dimension and the created order?

Deadline for Proposals: 31 March 1995: Paper proposals on these and other relevant topics (feel free to express your interests) should be submitted to Dr. Ken Collins, Methodist College, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28311.

Proposal Guidelines: Each typed proposal should be approximately 250 words in length. Please include the presenter's full name, brief curriculum vitae, institutional affiliation, address, and telephone number. It is expected that all papers will (1) be of appropriate length to be read within a 25-minute session and (2) be in final edited form ready for submission to the Journal editor at the time of the Annual Meeting. Participants will be notified of the acceptance of their proposals in a letter sent no later than 30 April 1995.