

# **“THE ADOLESCENCE OF CHURCH STRIFE”**

**I Corinthians 3:1-4**

## **I. INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Satan’s focused agenda with church strife: (**Acts 15**; *I Cor. 3*; *Phil. 4*)
  - 1. The goal – Christ’s testimony to a lost world:
  - 2. The method: (**Pro. 13:10**)
  - 3. The fertile soil, immaturity: vv. 1-4 (**Heb. 5:11-14**)
- B. Christ’s bold admonishment: (*II Tim. 4:2*; *Tit. 3:9-10*; *Rom. 16:17*)
  - 1. The “foolish” strategy and solution: (*I Cor. 1:18-31*; *2:2*; *15:31b*; *Jn. 3:30*)
  - 2. The “ultimate” indwelling of the all-powerful Helper: (*Jn. 15:26*; *16:13-14*)

**“Church strife on the horizontal plane always unveils strife on the vertical plane.”**

## **II. ANALYZING THE DIVIDED CONGREGATION AT CORINTH:**

- A. Three contrasting spiritual conditions: **vv. 1-10, 14**
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- B. Identifying the “carnal” majority: **vv. 1-4 (See back)**
  - 1. Understanding carnality:
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
    - d.
  - 2. Observing carnality:
    - a.
    - b.
- C. Consequences no purposeful local church can afford:
  - 1.
  - 2.
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
  - 3.

## **III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:**

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A. The Spirit forces me to immediately scrutinize **MY** spiritual barometer in the midst of strife. (*I Cor. 3:3*)
- B. The Spirit uses Biblical absolutes to reveal and address a declining temperature in **MY** spiritual barometer.  
(*Jn. 16:8*; *Heb. 4:12*; ***Ja. 4:17***)
- C. The Spirit is the visible presence of “mercury” in **MY** spiritual barometer. (*Rom. 8:16*)