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Is Carnal Christianity a Thing?

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

- 1) Three kinds of people in the world, inside & outside the Church (2:14—3:4)
 - a) **Natural** (*psuchikos*)—unbelievers unable understand the things of God (2:14)
 - b) **Spiritual** (*pneumatikos*)—maturing Christians (3:1)
 - c) **Fleshly** (*sarkinos; sarkiko*)—professing Christians w/o submission to Christ (3:1-4)
 - i) Perpetually infantile in behavior & knowledge of Christ (3:1); never maturing
 - ii) Unable to endure solid food, preferring milk (3:2; cf. Heb. 5:11-14), rejecting Bible teaching in favor of music, entertainment, etc.
 - iii) Known for jealousy & strife (3:3; cf. Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:19; Jas. 4:1-4), always at odds w/ someone
 - iv) Following men, not Christ (3:4), unable to discern true from false teachers
- 2) Two kinds of “servants” (*diakonoî*) exist within Christ’s Church (3:5-9)
 - a) **Ongoing planters of truth**: those who share the simple gospel; evangelists
 - b) **Ongoing waterers of truth**: those who teach & explain Scripture; pastors/teachers
 - i) Equal, fellow workers of God on earth (9a)
 - ii) Builders of Christ’s Church through service (9b)
 - c) Neither one is “anything” (*tî*) in and of themselves; they are equal in service
 - d) Both will receive a divine reward for faithful service (8)
- 3) One God who causes all growth; receives all glory (3:5-9)
 - a) He gives opportunities for service to His servants (5)
 - b) He causes the growth in His people (6-7)