

1 Corinthians 3

Jesus

If you are born again you have the *Spirit of Christ*.
If you have the Spirit of Christ you have the *Mind of Christ*.
Since you have the Mind of Christ you should be *Acting like Christ*.

I. Spiritual Competition is Carnal

1 And [yet] I, brethren, **could not speak to you as to spiritual people** but as to carnal, as to **babes** in Christ. 2 **I fed you with milk** and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for **you are still carnal**. For where there are **envy, strife, and divisions** among you, are you not carnal and **behaving like mere men?**

- **Natural Man** Unsaved Mind of Adam/Actions of Adam [Ch 2]
- **Spiritual Man** Saved Mind of Christ/Actions of Christ
- **Carnal Man** Saved Mind of Christ/Actions of Adam [Ch 3]

Those that are carnal/behaving like *mere* men?

- **Carnal:** gr. *sarkikos* having the nature of flesh, i.e. Controlled by animal appetites
- **These are Christians:** v1 Brothers and v3 Carnal

Envy/Strife/Division and Competition
Carnal Immature Babies In Christ

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," **are you not carnal?**

Babies w/regard to Spiritual Maturity
IOWs They still can't connect the dots w/in the Word of God

Hebrews 5: 12 For though **by this time you ought to be teachers...**you have come to **need milk and not solid food.**13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is **unskilled in the word** of righteousness, for he is a babe...

Cloth Eared: Derogatory term for someone who is bad at understanding. Like having ears stuffed with cloth. It describes a lack of sensitivity or perceptiveness to deeper meanings.

John 16:12 I still have many things to say to you, but **you cannot bear them now.**

- **What Jesus said:** I will suffer/die/rise 3 million times
- **What they heard:** Looks like there's a spot opening up

True Spiritual Maturity? Listening/learning for the benefit to others
IOWs Our growth is a by-product of our intent to use what we learn to serve

- **Dead Sea:** Dead because it only takes in/Never gives out

Exalting the Messenger: I'm of Paul. I'm of Apollos

Meanwhile no one is getting saved...

Acts 14:8 [1st Mission, Paul heals a lame man in Lystra they say...] **"The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"** 12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice to Paul with the multitudes ...**15** Paul said, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God ... **19** Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city**, supposing him to be dead. 20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

People are fickle: One day your a god the next a target
Don't believe your own press...

Exalting the messenger is carnal/Dangerous to you and the messenger
Paul: We were simply the vessels God used because He loves you

It was God who used us for your sake to lay the foundation in Corinth...

II. Treasure vs Junk

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but **ministers through whom** you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the increase.** 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but **God who gives the increase.**

I planted the seed of the Word/Apollos watered the Seed
God caused growth

Ephesians 3:7 ...I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the **effective working of His power.**

Colossians 1:25 I became a minister **according to the stewardship from God** which was **given to me for you**, to fulfill the word of God...

2 Corinthians 3:5 **Not that we are sufficient** of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God...**

Some Plant/Some Water/Only God brings Growth/New Life

Heres the rub. God receives all the glory for the result of His ministry through us
That does not negate our hard work, our perseverance, our faithfulness

1 Timothy 1:12 ...I thank Christ Jesus our Lord **who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry...**

Faithful in the Small things/Given more

Young preachers used to ask G. Campbell Morgan the secret to his preaching success. He would answer: "I always say to them the same thing: work; hard work; and again, work!"

W/out crucifying our flesh/Yielding to His Spirit/Working hard
We would not have a ministry; thus...

8 ...he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Tag Team Ministers
Paul Planted/Apollos Watered... Who is Apollos?

Acts 18:24 Now a certain Jew named **Apollos**, born at Alexandria, an **eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures**, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being **fervent in spirit**, he spoke and **taught accurately** the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to **speak boldly** in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. 27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace...

- Eloquent in speech
- Mighty in Scriptures
- Instructed in the Lord now...
- Accurately teaching things of the Lord
- Apollos was **Fervent in spirit...**

Lit. to *boil in the spirit* i.e. *bubbling over with enthusiasm*. [Williams]

We will never burn out if we are led by God's Spirit
We may grow tired *in the work* but not *of the work* seeing the increase from God

IOWs We are simply those who cooperate w/the Spirit
Working in conjunction w/the Mind of Christ vs Daydreaming

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the **grace of God which was given to me**, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But **let each one take heed** how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Jesus said He would build His Church on the Rock/Foundation of His Will/Ability to Save
We are His fellow workers in building His Church/His Temple

▪ **In the Church Setting:**

1. **The congregation is God's Field:** Seeds of the Word planted/watered
2. **The congregation is God's Building:** Stones are laid/Temple Built

Teachers wisely lay the foundation for the congregation to build upon. Each member must then be careful/take heed to lay down good stones; stones set rightly off the Cornerstone which was laid, i.e. Jesus Christ the Word of God. [NJC]

Ephesians 2:19 ... [we are]... fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ** Himself being the **chief cornerstone**, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5 ...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house...

Paul wisely laid the Foundation of Christ
He warned the Ephesians w/tears to guard the building project...

Ephesians 20:25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will **see my face no more**. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am **innocent of the blood of all men**. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel of God**. 28 Therefore **take heed to yourselves** [v 10] and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. 30 Also **from among yourselves** men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to **God and to the word of His grace**, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

I'm leaving: I commend you to the Word of His grace
Presently: Corinth is danger of accepting any/all teaching

2 Corinthians 11:3 ...I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

We continue building on the Foundation
True Doctrine and Good Works

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, [Treasure] wood, hay, straw [Junk], 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be **saved, yet so as through fire**.

One Life. What counts? What lasts? What matters?
A. Things done motivated/sustained by the Holy Spirit. Period

- **Junkie Materials:** Own thoughts, worldly ideas [Star Wars?] own desires or dreams?

Jeremiah 23:25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, '**I have dreamed, I have dreamed!**' 26 How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the **deceit of their own heart**...

27 who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams ...**28b** What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the Lord.

- **Junkie Materials:** What you come up with...Led by the flesh ending in confusion
- **Top-o-the-line Materials:** Spirit initiated. Spirit led. Spirit intended results

2 Corinthians 5:10 ...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Christian Judgment at the Bema Seat of Christ for Reward
Criteria? Junkie Materials vs Top-o-the Line Materials

- **Spirit Initiated.** Spirit Led. Spirit Sustained. Spirit Intended Results
- **God Glorifying:** Not devised by the flesh/vain conceit [Phil. 2 Mind of Christ]
- **In Line w/God's Word.** Never contradicting the Word. Always in love...

These are the building blocks that will remain
The works that will receive Eternal Reward

How much of what we do would fall under daydreaming, own ideas, I'm bored?
Q. How much of what we do does not fall into these 3 Categories?

1. **Spirit Initiated**
2. **God Glorifying**
3. **Scripture Based. We must learn to listen to God**

Listen for God's Word. Listen to God's Word. Obey God's Word
Result? Rewards enjoyed now/forever

If anyone's work which he has built on it endures he will receive a reward
If anyone's work is burned he will suffer loss. He will be saved but as through fire

It is a sobering thought: many, many people who believe they are serving God, but are doing it in an unworthy manner or with unworthy "materials" will come to find in eternity that they have in reality done nothing for the Lord. Some will be saved, but with a life that was wasted, and receive no crown to give to Jesus. He himself will be saved, yet so as through the fire shows that some will be saved, but barely saved, and saved with everything gone. [Guzik]

Stop Being Carnal Brothers/Sisters
Begin listening with intent to the Spirit of God before acting
Discretion/Discernment/Discipline. You have the Mind of Christ...

16 Do you not know that **you** [Here the Church] **are the temple of God** and that the **Spirit of God dwells** [also] **in** [each of] **you?**

The Spirit of God dwells in us...the Corporate Body of Christ

17 If **anyone defiles** the temple of God, **God will destroy** him. For the **temple of God is holy, which temple you are.**

Context: Defiling the Temple of God/Corporate Body of Christ
How? By acting as a carnal brother. With the Mind of Christ disengaged leading to...

- **Pride:** Competition/Arrogance
- **Perversity:** Sexually/Doctrinally [Ch 5]
- **Worldliness:** Compromise; i.e. allowing thing of sin sick world in the church
- **Basic Works of the flesh...**

Those that introduce these poisons into the Body of Christ will be removed by God
If anyone defiles the temple of God...God will destroy him

- **Defile/Destroy:** Same word: Phtheirō **to corrupt**

IOWs God will take them out before they can corrupt others
Not a great welcome into Heaven. No well done.

For the Temple of God; i.e. the Church corporate, is Holy
Which temple you are... Each individual member

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?**

- **Everything we do has an affect:** Action/Reaction in/on Physical/Spiritual realm
 1. Our Connection to Christ thus...
 2. Our Connection to one another

Everything matters. All we do has an *effect* that *affects* others

Ephesians 2:21 ...the whole building, **being fitted together, grows into a holy temple** in the Lord...

Let our actions affect others for good vs Infect others to their hurt
Let us use Top o the Line materials: Spirit Initiated/Led/Sustained doctrine/works

Paul/Apollos/Peter were not their only teachers
IOWs Corinth began listening to worldly people with worldly wisdom
Itinerant hirelings who would come after Paul left. Talk smack...but sound good

III. Danger/Futility of Seeking Worldly Wisdom

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you **seems to be wise in this age,** let him **become a fool that he may become wise.**

Do we renounce everything we learned from worldly institutions?
Daniel didn't: Ate the meat/spit out the bones in Babylon

There's always more bones than meat taught in worldly institutions
The Word of God offers a completely de-boned meat platter

Paul asks them to renounce worldly wisdom, all humanism [man-centered philosophy], even if it means being called a fool. If one is not willing to be considered a fool by those who value only human wisdom, they will never be able to truly become wise. [Guzik]

19 For the **wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**. For it is written, "He **catches the wise** in their own craftiness" [Job 5:13] ; 20 and again, "**The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile** [Psalm 94:11]."

15 minutes of Fame. Eventually exposed as frauds
Those that followed them...humiliated/deflated

21 Therefore **let no one boast in men**. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—**all are yours**. 23 And **you are Christ's**, and **Christ is God's**.

To say I am of Paul or I am of Apollos is to have **a view that is too narrow**, too constricted. Both Paul and Apollos belong to you; the whole universe is yours in Christ. [Guzik]

You can choose your teachers/books/videos
All things are available...but be careful. You are Christ's...

1 Corinthians 1:23 All things are lawful for me, but **not all things are helpful**; all things are lawful for me, but **not all things edify**. 24 Let no one seek his own, but **each one the other's well-being**.

- **All things are yours:** Christian Liberty/Ability to choose what/where we go to grow
- **But you are Christ's:** Christian Responsibility/Duty choose wisely what we take in
- **Christ is God's:** IOWs...

Because the Father delivered all things **to Christ** and We are Co-heirs **of Christ**
All things for a victorious life are accessible to those **In Christ**. So...

v3 **Q.** Why are they still carnal? Why the envy, strife, division, competition?

A. Because they are selfish spiritually immature babies who need to grow up

Galatians 5:13 ...you, brethren, have been **called to liberty**; only **do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh**, but through **love serve one another**. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself**." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, **beware lest you be consumed by one another!**

The Spirit begins to close in on Ch 13 the Love Chapter
IOWs Corinth: It's about love...Not Knowledge/Intellectualism but Love