

1 Corinthians 2:11-3:3 – Growing in Grace
“Not Mere Men”
February 4, 2024

Problems in this church. . .

Quarrels and divisions and one-upmanship **1:1-4:5**
Sexual immorality that made pagans blush **5:1-8**
They were suing each other **6:1-8**
Wondered, what’s the problem with visiting prostitutes? **6:9-20**
Confused about marriage and divorce **7:1-40**
Flaunting their liberty and giving offense **Ch 8**
Fellowshipping at pagan feasts **10:14-22**
Rejecting the notion that God created two distinct genders, male and female **11:1-16**
Getting drunk and being cliquish at the Lord’s Supper **11:17-34**
Abusing spiritual gifts and showing out **12:1-14:40**
Even denying the resurrection of the dead **Ch 15**

And you thought your church had problems!

1 Corinthians 2:6 The mature believer is learning and growing in the faith. The wisdom of God is permanent, true wisdom, unlike the wisdom of the age which is passing away and has no eternal significance.

Vv. 11,12 Just as the thoughts of a man are known only to that man, the thoughts of God are known only to God, and we can’t figure them out for ourselves; we have to have the Spirit of God within us to reveal those thoughts to us.

The believer is not to live by the “spirit of the world;” otherwise, what difference does his/her life make in the world, if his/her values and goals and behavior are no different from the world? We are to live by a different Spirit.

Vv. 13,14 The natural man is unsaved, and he cannot understand spiritual truths because the Spirit of God is not inside him.

Vv. 15,16 The world does not understand the wisdom of the Spirit, but the believer understands the wisdom of the world and all its shortcomings.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh (*sarkinos* – composed of flesh; fleshy, natural), as to infants in Christ.

2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

3 for you are still fleshly (*sarkikos* – belonging to flesh; fleshly). For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Spiritual “milk” is the Gospel of regeneration through faith in Jesus Christ; “solid food” is teaching for growth from infancy to spiritual maturity.

Four types of people:

1. Natural man – unsaved; composed of flesh; fleshy; mere men
2. Spiritual man – saved and mature, and growing
3. Spiritual man – saved and an infant, but growing
4. Spiritual man – saved and still fleshly; belonging to the flesh; not growing