



The Natural Man and The Spiritual Man

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

August 2, 2023

Discussion Group Handout

1. Who Can Understand The Word of God? (14)

- a. Who is the natural man? What are the natural man's abilities to understand God's word? Why?
- b. Is it possible for the natural man to know a lot (to have the knowledge of, not truly know)? Maybe even know more than some believers?
- c. Is the Holy Spirit necessary for regeneration or can a person be talked into being a Christian?
- d. What does the word Understand literally mean?
 - i. *it is the Greek word – ginosko.
 - ii. Bonus question: what is the difference between oida and ginosko.
 1. Oida is to have a knowledge of something. "I have knowledge of who God is and what his word says." – many religious unbelievers fall into this type of "knowing"
 2. Ginosko is experientially knowing something. "I have been saved by grace through faith, my life has been radically changed. I hunger and thirst for God's word and his righteousness."
 3. "It goes from intellectual apprehension to actual realization." – Lenski.

2. Who Can Appraise (examine) God's Word? (14b and 15)

- a. Why can't the natural man examine God's word?
- b. What are the dangers of having an unbeliever in the pulpit or reading books about spiritual things written by an unbeliever?
- c. When coming to God's word do you ask for the Holy Spirit's help?
- d. Since we have the mind of Christ do we need pastors and teachers? Why?



- i. Pastors are uniquely gifted to teach
- ii. Sermons help us read the Bible better
- iii. Preaching awakens new affections for God.
- iv. God saves through the foolishness of preaching.
- v. We need to hear the word from other believers.

3. Who Can Know the Mind of Christ? (15)

- a. Have you thought about that when unbelievers are arguing with you and trying to correct you they are really trying to correct God?
- b. Have you ever thought about the fact that because of the Spirit you have the mind of Christ? Why is this encouraging?

Prayer Topics

- Pray that our church would be like the Bereans. Testing everything against God's word and examining it.
- Praise God for the illumining of our hearts to his word and pray for those who are unbelievers.