

Preparing for the Judgment Seat Christ

1 Corinthians 3:

1 **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.**

And I, brethren, (reminds them they are in the body of Christ) **could not** (not his fault but theirs) **speak** (teach) **to you** (for your advantage) **as to spiritual men,**

pneumatikos = Spiritual:

This is much more than just being Filled with the Holy Spirit. For the new believer it is the Filling of the Holy Spirit at the point of Salvation, but he loses it quickly.

This refers to those on their way to maturity in the Spiritual life.

It is ashamed that we care more about our physical maturity than we do our spiritual maturity.

but as to men those of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

Do you see the great contrast? First, they are all saved. But there are two divisions in the body of Christ. First, those who are spiritual—growing in the Word of God and then secondly, there are believers who are as in flesh—infants in Christ. They are in Christ but they are infants.

Men of flesh –WRONG—not men of flesh but simply **fleshly *sarkinos*** compared with ***pneumatikos***.

Ikos shows spiritual relationship, while **Inos** shows material relationship... that is, with the **kosmos**.—Searching for answers in the material world.

One has their mind set on things that are spiritual, while the other has their mind set on things of the flesh. Romans 8:5-7.

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|---|--|
| 5 | <i>For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.</i> |
| 6 | <i>For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,</i> |
| 7 | <i>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,</i> |

In verse 1, Paul writes of speaking or teaching.

In verse 2 he writes concerning WHAT he teaches.

| | |
|---|--|
| 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, |
|---|--|

Milk

Refers to what is fundamental and lays the foundation upon which more doctrine is to be built. Start with a sound understanding of the gospel and the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

Not solid food advanced doctrine that carries the believer through storms of life.

indeed even now you are yet able

This describes most Christians in America today.

There are not that many Pastor-Teachers able to teach advanced doctrines; also, there are not that many believers who are able to take in and understand advanced doctrines that carries the believer through the storms and attacks of life.

Paul now supports his straight forwardness of verse 2—proves his position of not being able to teach them.

1 Corinthians 3:3

for you believers are still fleshly.

Have not moved into their Spiritual-man.

For observant proof of their immaturity and **fleshly** since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **fleshly**, and are you not walking like mere men?

For those of you who think we move too slowly;

Note how many doctrinal insights we could study here:

- Doctrine of Jealousy;
 - Doctrine of strife;
 - Doctrine of being **fleshly**; -and-
 - Walking as mere men; -or-
 - Dangers in every local church.
-

for you are still fleshly

KJ **carnal**:

NIV **worldly**:

We have **fleshly, carnal, worldly**

Ok, what is going on? What is Paul saying?

But you are still fleshly

1st note the phrase:

you are

denoting their status at this time;

What would you want said after the words: **you are**

Well, here they are no different now than they were when they first believed in JESUS CHRIST...

no growing in the Word of God;
no walking in the Holy Spirit.

But you are still fleshly

FOUR descriptions

2:14 natural man

3:1 spiritual man

3:1 men of flesh

Now3:3 fleshly...

but you are still fleshly.

Being 'natural man'.

This condition cannot be helped; it is not condemned but it is not condoned! We are born natural!

But while **sarkiNOS – flesh** is not condemned in verse 1, **sarkiKOS fleshly** in verse 3 is condemned and should be condemned — and AVOIDED BY BELIEVERS.

We are all of **flesh**,
...by our 1st birth we are born of flesh.

We are **fleshy**—made of flesh... verse 1.

But in verse 3 where Paul says for you are still **fleshly**.
In verse 3 he uses the same word twice.

Same root **sarx** flesh; only this suffix **kos** does not refer to that that which anything is made but rather taking on the characteristic of **sarx**; acting like **sarx**.

Therefore, we shall translate this word **FLESHLY**.

Verse 1 **as of flesh — fleshy.**

Verse 3 **but you are still fleshly.**

So, for simplicity,
we have **fleshy** — made of flesh and
fleshly — acting like flesh!

We cannot help it that we are *fleshy* born this way.
But we can help it if we are **fleshly**: acting like we are flesh.
So, you should be able now to pick up on the word still in
verse 3.

1 but to men of flesh—fleshy

3 for you are still fleshly you are still acting like flesh!

This distinction is so important in your life and in the world

This is much more penetrating than saying
a **Christian** and a **non-Christian**.
-or-
saying a Spirit-filled Christian
and
one who is not Filled by the Holy Spirit;
to say **fleshy** and **fleshly** and **spiritual**.

This is what divides the human race; and, people, the **fleshy** or **fleshly** cannot understand the Word of God; cannot serve God, cannot please God.

There are so many **fleshly** Christians who are deceived into thinking they are serving God, while all the time they are serving their own flesh nature.

When they do good, it is human good which is unacceptable to God, therefore called '**BAD**' at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Only a believer Filled by the Holy Spirit can produce what is considered '**GOOD**' before God.

Principle:

What Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 2:1-3 is that by now you should be acting spiritual, but you have not grown, you have not advanced in doctrine; you are still **fleshly**.
To act **fleshly** is to fulfill desires of flesh, sinful desires, desires opposite to and opposing those of the Holy Spirit or our being spiritual.

While we are **fleshy – sarkiNOS** we do not need to act like **sarkiKOS – fleshly**, where the flesh rules the soul!

While we are **fleSHY** we do not need to act **fleSHLY**.

We can act spiritually, we can be spiritual.

Here is one of the great essential reason God gives the Holy Spirit to each person who believes in JESUS CHRIST;

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Just because we are **fleshy**, does not give us an excuse to act **fleshly!**

We have been given the Holy Spirit in us.

PRINCIPLE:

In 3:1 **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.**

Paul is not condemning them nor chastising them here in verse 1.

He recognizes that they—we all—started out **fleshy**,

This is shown by Paul adding—as to babes in Christ.

As Arch Bishop Trench says:

“a baby has no malice. He acts like a baby because he is one, and he cannot help being one. There is no moral responsibility to being a baby.

Every newly_born-again Christian is a baby and acts as **sarkiNOS... fleshy**. This immaturity is because he has not had time to grow. But **sarkiKOS... fleshly** indicates “Christian responsibility”. You have chosen to be **fleshly** not because that is what you are. You are acting **fleshly**, and not spiritual because you have chosen to, not because that is what you are.

The point Paul is making is that they are still **fleshly** – they have made no progress spiritually, growing in the Word, walking in the Holy Spirit, they are content remaining **fleshly** –

They do not listen to the teaching of the Word of God. It is not as if they are remaining babies... it is far worse than that — they are growing in time in being a believer but they remain **fleshly!**

There is nothing you can do about being **fleshy**
But you choose to be **fleshy** – not grow spiritually.

Verse 3 **for you are still fleshly.**

Here is a good place to translate this carnal but not in verse 1. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **fleshly**, and are you not walking like mere men?

You can tell when one is not in the Holy Spirit, and when one is in flesh—worldly confrontations, bitterness, judging, etc.

These believers are not unlike a multitude of believers today—Immature—**fleshy**—new babes in Christ, or **fleshly** –never walking in the Holy Spirit; never growing in the Word of God.

Oh, and one more important point.
Don't blame Satan or demons!

It is that some are just babes in Christ and acting like babes and others are **fleshly** – Satan does not have to be concerned with either of these – the multitude of problems that those who are **fleshly** have – has nothing to do with demons it has to do with the fact they do not walk in the Holy Spirit.

Those who strive to walk in the Holy Spirit:
These are the ones Satan goes after.

1 Corinthians 3:3

3 Jealousy and strife

And, people, be sure you do not miss that this jealousy and strife are in the sphere of spiritual things, not so much worldly! This is going on in the local church. Self-Righteous, religious types are arrogant that they may not be into worldliness, but oh, how they compete and devour in the local church, in the spiritual things.

For you are still **fleshly**. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **fleshly**, and are you not walking like mere men?

Jealousy often leads to strife.

Remember that jealousy and strife are part of the immune system of the ***flesh self***.

This will be seen in verse 4...

but it involves so many things in the spiritual realm. Remember, the disciples as they came into the upper room, arguing over who was the greatest — not who wore the nicest robes or who had the faster horse or better home... no, not at all, it was which one was the more spiritual; more Righteous, closer to the Lord, witnessed to more people or did more good works; does more things in the local church; contributes more, etc.

This is the most dangerous area of arrogance and jealousy—because you think it sets you apart.

In our first birth—physical birth—we learn many things that are applicable for teaching in the spiritual realm and one of those is that when we are born again, we have to learn that we are to GROW—SPIRITUALLY; just as in our first-birth we do not remain babies but we grow and hopefully we make it to maturity!

*Adam and Eve were the only two members of human race
who did not have to grow up,
even our Lord had to grow up,
but Adam and Eve were
created grown.*

I LIKE TO POINT OUT WHEN DISCUSSING HOW OLD THE EARTH IS—

WELL, IF A DOCTOR HAD EXAMINED ADAM OR EVE — THEY HAVE BEEN HERE FOR 20-25 YEARS. Nope!

*They started out just today...
no! can't be...*

So, the earth may look like it has been here millions of years, but not necessarily so.

Well, the same Principle is applied to our spiritual birth, we start out babes in Christ and are to grow Spiritually!

And how does one grow Spiritually?

1st The **Power** — and **Leading** of the Holy Spirit,

So, every believer should know how to

- be Filled with the Holy Spirit,
- how to walk in the Holy Spirit,
- be led of the Holy Spirit,
- live in the Holy Spirit

● and this by **FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

2nd Food is the Word of God—Taught by a Pastor-Teacher.

Paul has just taught on the Holy Spirit in chapter 2, and now he will go through some teaching on the importance of the Pastor-teacher.

Most Christians cannot see this—that they are yet carnal, **fleshly**—

They pride themselves on how good they are,
on their Spiritual Gifts—
on praise from One Another—
and

that praise from One Another soon turns into jealousy and strife and competition with One Another.

One of the fundamental aspects of our **flesh nature** is JEALOUSY. JEALOUSY is the immune system of our flesh nature.

Recognizes self and Protects self...

Someone is being complemented or recognized in the church or praised, well, flesh-self cannot stand this — so it comes to the defense to protect flesh self...

Whenever you are **jealous**—and don't deny it— all human beings experience **JEALOUSY**— ...and when you sense **JEALOUSY**, you know that you are not in the Holy Spirit but in the flesh...

Paul starts with JEALOUSY because it is going on in the local church and JEALOUSY must be taken care of... how?

BY SPIRITUAL LOVE.

This is where Paul is going...

But you cannot be fleshly and spiritual at same time...

Paul has introduced the Holy Spirit in chapter 2.

Now he points out the need of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives...

Spiritual Love is not JEALOUSY and envies not, because Spiritual Love is the immune system to the Spiritual person we are after Salvation.

That is a NEW SPIRITUAL CREATION and SPIRITUAL LOVE will not allow JEALOUSY and Envy:

SPIRITUAL LOVE recognizes who we are in Christ.

SPIRITUAL LOVE is completely satisfied with who you are in Christ, and, therefore, is not Jealous and Envious of anyone.

SPIRITUAL LOVE frees us from promotion of self... satisfied with who we are in Christ.

The values of **SPIRITUAL LOVE** do not allow for JEALOUSY and Envy.

You do not make a decision not to be JEALOUSY and Envious —it won't work in the flesh... for JEALOUSY and ENVY are immune system of the flesh.

You make a decision to
be Filled with the Holy Spirit;
walk in the Holy Spirit;
live in the Holy Spirit.

3 are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Sarkikos resembling flesh, taking on the characteristics of flesh. Paul uses the question to get them to think. (technique of Socrates)

Are you not walking like mere men?

Walking... this is a very interesting word. **Peripateo**

And as a Christian you can walk about, live your life according to the flesh or according to the Holy Spirit.

Like man—of the flesh

- 1** No believer can grow in Word, to maturity and at the same time harbor in his soul jealousy.
- 2** You cannot afford to get involved in jealousy and strife and divisions or in personality conflicts in the local church (or anywhere for that matter) and move into maturity.

- 3 Jealousy and strife are caused by getting your eyes off the Word of God, off of glorifying JESUS CHRIST and on inconsequential things related to this earth, to this flesh. —these will pass away.
- 4 The objective of every believer should be maturity to where you are effective in glorifying JESUS CHRIST.
- 5 Maturity is accomplished by growth in the Word of God under the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit... under a qualified teacher of the Word of God.
- 6 Growing in Word of God is accomplished in local church; the local church becomes the battleground! And Jealousy and strife will neutralize the effectiveness of the Local Church.

As in Corinth and in every local church in history there will be attacks to neutralize a local church where the Word of God is being taught. (study the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3)

For introduces verification of the indictment Paul has been speaking of:
when one says, "I am of Paul," and
another, "I am of Apollos,"
are you not mere men?

Which temple do you worship?
Which god or goddess do you worship?
All this is a carry-over from their heathenism.

All this is an indication that they have **not** advanced into **Spiritual Maturity**—comes from our human nature—I am for this team or that one team! (that by which we identify ourselves;) Or denomination worship—denomination identification.

Ok, what should we be saying?

I am a Christian, a follower of JESUS CHRIST, Him crucified and resurrected! I attend a Bible church where the primary emphasis is the study of the Bible, verse by verse, etc.

They have not grown at all; making an issue out of the man instead of out of the message!

IT IS **THE MILK** AND **SOLID FOOD** THAT IS THE ISSUE.

We now move into our subject of
Gold, Silver and Precious Stones
verses
Wood Hay and Straw.
and
The Judgment Seat of Christ.