

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3:1-15

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX722 SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY – PART 1

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Carnality, Judgment, Fruitfulness, Discipleship

I Don't Know About You – But I Don't Like the “Knock-Off” concept when it comes to stuff.

Well, In the 3rd chapter of 1st Corinthians, Paul

here argues for the REALITY of being a real Christian.

He addresses the health and welfare of the local assembly of believers or what is called the local church.

As Christians, we're to belong to a community with a local body of believers so that, united, a church can impact an area for Christ.

In the book of revelation, Jesus Christ Himself speaks to **the local churches** in what was then called Asia Minor, or Turkey today. He mentioned them by their city name – to the church at Ephesus, to the church at Philadelphia and so on.

Revelation 3:6

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

That's what's going on here, right now

The Holy Spirit is Using the Word of God, the Bible, to speak into our lives. - Its miraculous, its powerful, its life changing!!!

But what happens when a Christian and or a local church gets off target and off mission - - And begins to get self-centered?

It becomes sterile and carnal until it's no longer effective.
In fact, it becomes downright offensive...

What's happening is that
Christians Are Behaving Badly.

1 Corinthians 3:1:15

And 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 is envy, strife, and divisions* among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*? :4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I *am* of Apollos," are you not carnal? :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. :8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. :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. :12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw*, :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**.

CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) They just won't grow up

v.1-2

1a.) Because they won't eat what they should

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you **as to spiritual people** but **as to carnal, as to babes** in Christ.

The Carnal Christian has a very weak grip on the Bible at best. They're Christians, that is – they had a conversion experience but they haven't grown much at all.

But Why ?

carnal **sarkiko/β sarkikos, sar-kee-kos'**;
from **Sarx** meaning flesh and pertaining to flesh and **Inos** meaning to be made from. Stuck, stranded, caught in the flesh mode of your existence. Fleshly.

Their Affections are Divided

The "Stanley" Factor

The Christian is under constant pressure to **"go back to the Egypt"**

2 Timothy 2:3

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

THEY JUST WON'T GROW UP

1b.) Because they don't have a very good diet

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;

What's the "Milk" and the "Meat" in the Bible?

Milk is the **Doctrinal Things of Christ's Ministry on Earth.**
(the fulfillment of the Prophecies, His Crucifixion, His Death, Resurrection and His Imminent Return)

The “Meat” is the **Practical life doctrines** of the Bible
(discipleship, obedience, faithfulness, holiness)

People today are not able to receive...

1 Peter 2:1-2

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, **:2**
as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

Hebrews 5:12-14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and 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. **:14** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

After drinking the milk – they got up to eat junk food

Hebrews 6:1-2

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **:2** of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

THEY JUST WONT GROW UP

1c.) Because they cant keep things down

(2b) ...and even now you are still not able;

You're not even able to receive this stuff I'm telling you now.

There's **no real digestive work** going on with the Word of God

They Couldn't Keep Down

the bread of the word, the honey of the word, or the meat of the word.

Colossians 3:14-16

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. :15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. :16 Let the word of Christ **dwell in you richly**

CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

2.) They just won't play nice

v.3

2a.) Because their emotions get the best of them

3 for you are still carnal. For where *there is envy* - - among you, are you not carnal and **behaving** like *mere* men?

for you are still carnal.

The words "still carnal" imply that this Christian is **unclean**.
That his life is difficult to define from that of an unbeliever.
(There's no detectable evidence of his Christianity in the public's view)

"O' him, I didn't know he was a Christian"
((He's an unclean Christian))

behaving/walk per ipate ÷ w peripateo, per-ee-pat-eh'-o;
from 4012 and 3961;
to go all around, to traffic about – distilling or depositing or leaving behind debris

1 John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and **walk** in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. :7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin **2:4** He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him... :6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

"There is envy - - among you.."
Are you not carnal and **behaving** like *mere* men?

Envy **zelos, dzay'-los;**
heat, indignation, jealousy, having a passion to put down someone else or to see them overcome. To be at war against another person in one's heart and mind. – to seethe at.

- H.A. Ironside

“the carnal Christian is a man who's life is characterized by emotions which lead him from one performance to another. He is a gifted critic and is quick to point out the faults of others, but in his own life, he has learned to tolerate, allow and excuse his own sinful actions – Rather than living from one victory to another, his life is in a perpetual state of sin and confession – he is carnal, backslidden and unclean.”

THEY JUST WON'T PLAY NICE

2b.) Because their selfishness defines them

3 for you are still carnal. For where *there is*, **strife**, - - among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?

Strife **e r i ß eris, er'-is;**
to quarrel, to be contention, always needing to debate, to cast sand or to cause disruptions. To cause a variance among those otherwise united.

Proverbs 6:14

Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually,
He sows discord. – (**to infuse trouble, divide people, and cause breakups**)

The Spiritual Christian Works at Unifying Believers

around the Lord Jesus Christ – **BEWARE OF DISGRUNTLED CHRISTIANS – THEY ARE THE PERFECT PICTURE OF SPIRITUAL CANCERS**

Ephesians 4:3

endeavoring to **keep the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

THEY JUST WON'T PLAY NICE

2c.) Because their jealousies surround them

3 for you are still carnal. For where *there is* - - **divisions** among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?

Divisions

dicoſtasi ÷ a dichostsis, dee-khos-tas-ee'-ah;

to dislocate or to disconnect, to divide up or to cause others to act of sedition, rebellion.

To cause others around them to fall or to stumble or to be led away.

To defraud a brother or sister in the faith.

1 Corinthians 12:25

so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. :26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love,
in honor ***giving preference to one another***;

CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

3.) They just won't stop pretending

v.4-7

3a.) Because they have to be in competition

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

**Remember "Superman Pajamas or Batman Underwear"
They're kids' heroes and they wanna be just like em'**

It's pretty sad when you're a grown man
and you're still wearing your batman underwear or you slip into your underoos every
night.

**There's a lot of grown-ups in churches
who are still wearing their cape to bed.**

We've all seen this. "my mom can make better cookies than your mom."
or "My dad can beat up your dad."

(My favorite is Paul's - O yeah, mine's Apollo)

"My Pastor's better than your pastor"

Their story has to be bigger. Their situation was worse, look at me.

A mature Christian uses his
gifts as tools *to build with*
While an immature Christian uses his
gifts as toys *to play with.*

THEY JUST WONT STOP PRETENDING

3b.) Because they cant see the bigger picture

: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**.

Men can only plant, only water and wait.

James 5:7

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

3c.) Because they love being the center of attention

7 So then neither he who plants is **anything**, nor he who waters, **but** (it is) **God who gives the increase**.

The word of God, the Bible
Is all powerful. Once planted in the head, in the heart,
that Seed, by design will begin to grow....

The Carnal Christian is the 'High Maintenance' Believer Among Us.

They have a deep inner need to be at the center of everything. They have to be involved in everything, they have to be in the mix of everything. They can't function without attention because they don't know who they are. – they've lost their Christ-centered identity.

Maybe you, being the center of everything hasn't worked out all that well for you. – Honestly, you're tired

1 Peter 1:23-25

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, :24 because *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, :25 But the word of the LORD endures forever.”* Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Here's The Fix

Romans 6:14

Sin no longer is your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin. Instead, you are free by God's grace.
(I don't have to sin any longer)

John 8:11

She said, “No one, Lord.”
And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Romans 8:37-39

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. :38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Day of Dedication

What We Need To Do Church is To - Get Out!

End of Study