

- I) V1-4 INTRO: And I brethren could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes
- a) As we begin our study: Paul is writing a word of rebuke for *the Christians* at Corinth
    - 1) They had received forgiveness through Jesus but they were living fleshly lives
- II) NOTICE: And I *brethren* could not speak to you as to spiritual(ly mature) people but as to *carnal*
- a) He is *not saying* they do not have the Holy Spirit: He *is saying they live* as if they are not saved
    - 1) Carnal: *Sarkinos*: Fleshly ones; One ruled by fleshly desires
- III) THE FACT IS: Paul is rebuking them for their *spiritual immaturity*
- a) He is forced into speaking to them as if they were newborn Christians, ignorant of God's Word
    - 1) They were saved, but were reducing what God had for them by failing to walk in His Spirit
- IV) THE FACT IS: It is possible to be saved, but to live as if ignorant of the Spirit's presence
- a) We can begin to live in such a way as to forget about our need for God's Power
    - 1) 2 Ti 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- V) AT CONVERSION: Every believer in Jesus becomes the Temple of God's Holy Spirit (V16)
- a) Instead of temples made by human hands, God takes up residence in you
    - 1) 1 Co 6:19 Do you not know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own
- VI) STILL: It is possible to begin to live as if the Holy does not exist
- a) This kind of life would be referred to as carnal, or fleshly
    - 1) Ro 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace
- VII) V2 I FED YOU WITH *MILK*: The elementary doctrines, easily digested elements of the gospel
- a) When I originally came to you, and after you had been converted, I fed you with milk, as babies
    - 1) Milk would be the elemental things of faith: repentance from dead works, faith towards God, the meaning of baptism, the resurrection, and eternal judgment
    - 2) New believers should be fully aware of these basic doctrines
- VIII) SADLY: They seemed to be content to stay in the infant stage
- a) They did not possess the *internal drive* that would motivate them to grow deeper in Jesus
    - 1) *Salvation* is not all there is to Christianity: God moves us to a deeper life in Him
    - 2) This is something that you desire and discipline yourself to
    - 3) Phil 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

IX) PAUL FED THEM: With milk and not with meat (solid food) because they were not able to receive it

a) They refused to put into practice what they had been taught and had remained spiritual infants

1) They were spiritually dull of hearing and needed to be exhorted to maturity

2) Heb 5:12-14 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being *still an infant*, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who *by constant use* have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

I) BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT BEEN GROWING IN GRACE: They were spiritually unable to grasp

a) They were not able to understand deeper things of God when they were first born again

1) Even now, they still remained unable to grasp the basic things he desired to communicate

II) V3 HE GIVES THE REASON: For you are still carnal (under the dominion of your flesh)

a) The mark of your carnality is that you are filled with *envy, strife*, and divisions

1) Gal 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

III) IN THIS CASE: Envy, strife, and division is what demonstrated carnality

a) Envy: An envious and contentious rivalry; jealousy

b) Strife: Wrangling for position; the desire to put one's self forward

c) Divisions: Dissensions

IV) KEY: Envy, strife, and division runs contrary to God's plan for the unity of faith

a) Our unity in Jesus is intended to be a witness to a world filled with strife

1) Jn 17:20-21 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

V) KEY: One of the purposes of salvation was to establish a new community, known by peace and harmony

a) This is the earmark of the Kingdom of God

1) Ro 14:17 The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

VI) THE UNITY OF FAITH: That is formed on proper teaching is to be one of the earmarks of faith

a) Ac 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the *apostles' doctrine* and *fellowship*, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

b) Ac 2:46 So continuing daily *with one accord* in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart

1) This was being overlooked in the church

- VII) V4 FOR: When one says I am of Paul and another I am Apollos, are you not carnal
- a) Instead of being Jesus and bible centered, they were devolving into being man centered
  - 1) KEY: Men and their ministries must not replace Jesus' centrality
- VIII) THE MINISTER'S JOB: Is to present Jesus to the people, and not themselves
- a) No matter how effective or important their work is, their work is not the real work
  - 1) The minister is to present Jesus to people, and not themselves
- IX) V5 WHO THEN: Is Paul and who is Apollos but ministers through whom you believed as the Lord
- a) THOUGHT: *We have simply shared* what God has given to us: His Gospel
  - 1) Ps. 40:9-10 I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD. I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.
- I) WHAT ARE WE: We are simply ministers of God's message
- a) Diakonos: One who executes the commands of another; a waiter, one who serves food and drink
  - 1) We are only busboys, waiters
- II) HIS POINT: We are only the instruments, *not the source*, of salvation
- a) We are ministers *through whom* you believed but we did not die for you, or redeem you: Jesus did
  - 1) 1 Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? *Was Paul crucified for you?* Or were you baptized in the name of Paul
- III) V6 I PLANTED: Apollos watered, but God gave the increase
- a) Paul planted the Church, as is recorded in Ac 18
  - b) Apollos watered, ministering to an already planted work, irrigating it with God's Word
- IV) PAUL REVEALS *THE TEAMWORK INVOLVED*: One person plants, another irrigates but God increases
- a) This highlights how the body is to work together, in unity
  - 1) We each work in our own area of gifting, but God produces the results
  - 2) Mt 9:35-38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
- V) V7 SO THEN: Neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase
- a) KEY: God is doing the real work, He is the one producing *the increase*
  - 1) This is why we do not give glory to the vessel, but to the One doing the work
  - 2) We are not competitors, nor should we be pitted against one another: we are co-laborers

- VI) V8 NOW: He who plants and he who waters are one and each one will receive *his own reward*
- a) We are *one in the labor*: The planter and the one who waters work together
    - 1) If no one planted, watering would be useless because there would be nothing to water
- VII) V8 WHAT A JOY: Each receives reward for faithfulness in service
- a) Salvation is a gift, but God gives rewards based on faithful service to Him
    - 1) Rev 2:23 I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works
    - 2) Rev 22:12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.
    - 3) 2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
- VIII) V9 FOR WE: Are God's fellow workers, you are God's field, you are God's building
- a) We are cooperating together in the work God is performing
    - 1) You are God's field: Where God produces His fruit
    - 2) You are God's building: Where God inhabits
- IX) V10 ACCORDING TO *THE GRACE OF GOD*: Which was given to me as a wise master builder
- a) Paul was given by God's grace the ministry of evangelism, and laid the foundation in their lives
    - 1) POINT: He laid the foundation and other teachers came and built on this foundation
- I) HE WARNS THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO BE TEACHERS: Be careful how you build
- a) Let each one take heed how he builds on it
    - 1) Jas 3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
- II) THIS ANSWERS: Those who were following after the Apostle Peter
- a) Jesus is the sure foundation
    - 1) Is. 28:16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a *sure foundation*; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.