

Chapter 3

v.1 Paul has talked about natural and spiritual men, now brings in another group the carnal Christians

- There is a significant debate as to if there can be such a thing as a **carnal** Christian. Some say it is a contradiction in terms; that Paul really says that these **carnal** ones are not Christians at all. Yet he clearly calls them **brethren**, and says they are **babes in Christ**. How could these terms be used of someone who is not a Christian?- *Romans 6*-presenting your body for God's purpose or the flesh

- we sometimes think of carnal christians as those still walking in sin, but it is those not letting the truth of God transform their lives

- story of man taking back a chain saw

v.2 **not able to receive deeper things, not deeper revelations, there are none but there are deeper works that the Lord wants to do in us**

- Paul wants to deal with spiritual issues but is still dealing with these base things in their life

- The difference between **milk** and **solid food** is one of degrees, not kind. Every doctrine that can be taught in seminary can be taught to children, though not in the same words.

You were not able to receive it: It wasn't that God prevented them from receiving the **solid food** Paul gave. The real problem was the Corinthian attraction to spiritual "junk food," based on man's wisdom and eloquence. They were so "filled" with this junk food that they were **not able to receive** the spiritual **solid food** Paul wanted to give them.

Some "spiritual junk food Christians" are greatly blessed when they get a spiritual meal of **solid food**, but others, when presented with **solid food** are **not able to receive it**, because their spiritual "taste buds" are so conditioned to junk food, that is all they have a taste for.

v.3 What is the mark of the carnal christian ?

- carnival- two greek words, carne- sensual, fleshly and vale- death;
originally carnivals were something preceding Lent when flesh was denied, a time of partying as they indulged the flesh

- the marks are envy- , jealousy , indignation, jealousy,
- strife,- a quarrel, i.e. (by impl.) wrangling:--contention, debate, strife,
variance.

- divisions

- **Is that what manifests itself in your life ?**

- do you die to self or act like this ? **READ 1 Cor. 13**

- they hurt my feelings- my marriage partner- job situations

- you behave like mere men- what do people see when they look at your life,
is it different from the world or the same thing in christian cloths

v.5-7 each body is a unique work of God, God has called together this body of believers uniquely as He has all other bodies of believers.

v.9 We are God's workers, building the church of God

- *(Eph 4:11-13 NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, {13} till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

v.11 the foundation is Jesus- can't build on another- Jesus Christ and Him crucified

v.12-13 gold, silver, precious stones OR wood hay and straw

- gold etc,-

- those things God has called us to do- here that is teach the Word, church, home Bible studies, counseling situations and love the people, missions

- wood, hay, straw

- can be things for our own glory,

- outwardly good that we are not called to- orphanages, food banks,

- can also be the wrong stuff, church growth in and of itself, works based programs,

v.13 the fire will burn those things not done for the Lord

- see White Throne in *Rev.20:11*

- books opened- First book of Life for salvation

- (*Mal 3:16 NKJV*) *Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.*

- then our works are judged for rewards

v.16 keep in mind we are His Temple, His dwelling place- we have been bought, redeemed, we have no right to act carnally any longer