

AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS
A Study of First Corinthians

STILL IN DIAPERS?
1 Corinthians 3:1-7 Jeff Schreve

There are three categories of people in the world:



Natural Person (Self-Directed Life)

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.



Spiritual Person (Christ-Directed Life)

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.



Carnal Person (Self-Directed Life)

Jesus is in the life but not on the throne. Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration.

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

What are the tell-tale marks of carnal (fleshly) Christians?

1. Carnal Christians do not grow spiritually.

A. They have a baby's diet.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. Hebrews 5:12-13

B. They have a baby's demeanor.

For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? 1 Corinthians 3:3

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. James 3:16

2. Carnal Christians do not strive for unity.

... being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

A. They are not going to submit to authority.

Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17

B. They are not going to deal with disagreements maturely.

3. Carnal Christians do not see that it's all about Jesus.

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

A. You and I are just branches.

I am the vine, and you are the branches. John 15:5

B. You and I are here to glorify Christ.

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

With the three categories, which one are you in right now?