

A Christian? Carnal or Spiritual?

I. The Question

- A. We claim to be Christians in this assembly; are we carnal or spiritual Christians? (Rom 8:1-17).
- B. Do you walk after the flesh, mind the things of the flesh, and look like other men (I Cor 3:1-4)?
- C. Do you walk after the Spirit, mind the things of the Spirit, and look like saints (Phil 2:15).
- D. Our great enemy is not doctrinal error, big government, or persecution; but carnal Christianity.
- E. A spiritually minded person is a person of prayer (Acts 9:11; 10:2). Both private and public.
- F. A spiritually minded person is a person of singing (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16).
- G. A spiritually minded person delights in the Lord (Psalm 37:4; Jeremiah 9:23-24).
- H. A spiritually minded person talks about the Lord with others (Malachi 3:16-18; I Thess 5:11).
- I. A spiritually minded person loves God's word (Job 23:12; Psalm 19:10; 119:97,113).
- J. A spiritually minded person loves fellowship with His saints (Acts 2:41-47; 4:32; I Jn 3:14-19).

II. The Warning

- A. Paul warned of perilous times in the last days of dangerous carnal Christianity (II Tim 3:1-13).
 - 1. Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God does not need interpretation.
 - 2. Having a form of godliness without the power may need a little interpretation.
 - a. It would be the form of godliness – outward religion going through the motions.
 - b. It would deny the power of true godliness – the claims of God on your life.
 - 3. From such teachers and such compromising Christianity we are to turn away.
- B. The friends of the world are the enemies of God (James 4:4). You cannot find a compromise.
- C. Ephesus was warned of coming judgment, if they did not do the first works (Revelation 2:4-5).
- D. Laodicea was warned of coming judgment, if they did not get hot for the Lord (Rev 3:15-20).
- E. Knowing of Christ or knowing Christ Himself is not enough; we must love Him (I Cor 16:22).

III. The Problem

- A. Satan, the world, and our flesh love sin and hate God. So there is always pull in that direction.
- B. This problem occurred over and over again in Israel – compromise with the pagan Canaanites.
- C. The Corinthian church was grossly carnal in many ways though abundant with spiritual gifts.
- D. All men eventually forsook Paul and Demas for love of this present world (II Tim 4:16,10).
- E. When for the time ye ought to be teachers, you still need one to teach you (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- F. What are you living for? Toys? Marriage? Children? Body? Work? Money? Retirement? Projects? Hobbies? Sports? A combination of these?
- G. It acts as leaven (I Cor 5:7-8), weeds (Mark 4:19), and cancer (II Tim 2:17). Small, slow, sure.

IV. The Judgment

- A. The Lord shall judge His people as He did Israel, but don't boast foolishly (Heb 10:30-31).
- B. Judgment must begin at the house of God (I Pet 4:17-18). He will not be longsuffering forever.
- C. Souls are lean (Ps 106:15); prayers are hindered (I Pet 3:7); evangelism dies; there is no power.
- D. And then some are weak, sick, and dead as at Corinth for their form of godliness (I Cor 11:30).

V. The Cure

- A. Repentance and confession. Did you hear Christ's word to His churches? Repent and confess.
- B. Pluck out and cut off every thing in your life that has the appearance of evil or worldliness.
- C. Exercise for godliness - repetition of basic spiritual actions to promote growth (I Tim 4:7-11).
- D. Choose prayer, reading, singing, godly friends, godly conversations, assemblies, hospitality.
- E. Set your affection on things above (Col 3:2; Matt 6:19-24). This is a choice. Make it now.

