

1 Corinthians 2:13- 3:4

In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells the city church, you've been given a new heart and mind of Christ.... Act like it. He pleads with them in his opening to **have unity**, be perfectly joined together, **Why?** There were **divisions and factions** among the Corinthian believers...

They seem to have been fighting over who they followed and who was better because of it, sin & immorality were becoming widely accepted in the church, drunk at communion, sexual sin.. Paul's response...

"You've been given **new life** in Christ, **why are you living like a corpse?** ...

"You've been set free from the power of sin, you have **a brand new identity**, you are alive in Christ, a new creation in HIM, **so why would you return to dead living?**

Read the Bible Text...

I think we would all agree **babies are super cute!**? They coo, giggle, eat, sleep so cutely. The first time they laugh a full belly laugh... How about after they eat, burp, you cheer for them? OR when they say their first word, Mama? Goo goo ga ga.

These are cute in a baby, **but what if your teenage son belches at the dinner table with the new neighbors over? Do we cheer him on or scold him?**

If your 11 year old comes up to you screaming and crying for food in a tantrum (GOo GOo). They should be able to communicate a lot better than that by now. Something is wrong when a kid acts like a baby.

I was born around 7 ½ lb when I was born, **what if I never grew?** At 46 still just 21 inches tall, need a really short pulpit or lots of steps. **Why is he so small?** You might ask, **What *stunted* his growth?**

There was a similar problem in Corinth, ***something*** had **stunted their growth**, kept them from growing & kept them living in the newness of life with Jesus. They seemed to have **a digestion issue**. They were unable to eat **meat & potatoes & veggies** (spiritually speaking), like babes they could only **digest mama milk**. Something was seriously **wrong** with the **spiritual development**.

Paul tells the church,

12 Now we have **received, not the spirit of the world**, but the **Spirit who is from God, that we might know** the things that have been **freely given** to us **by God**. 13 These things we also speak, not in words **which man's wisdom teaches** but which the Holy Spirit teaches, **comparing spiritual things with spiritual**.

So much of this world is wondering and wandering because they don't have the wisdom of heaven, HS. Those in Christ are **given a gift**, "received", "freely given" by God. Not earned. Paul is speaking from this wisdom, HS given.. **filter what you hear** through the gospel lens, not with your worldly perceptions.

What I am about to share with you is from the HS, listen up. These are spiritual matters, **Are you willing to have your mind changed by Jesus even if it goes against your natural thinking as a natural person?**

Paul describes the unsaved person as the natural man, woman,

14 But the **natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for **they are foolishness** to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

Paul talks about the “natural man”. Not a hippy, or all organic person,
Natural man, psü-khe-ko's, governed by breath & body, a person who responds on animal instincts. They are hungry they eat, angry they lash out, described well in

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who **were dead in trespasses** and sins, 2 in which you **once walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also **we all once** conducted ourselves **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh** and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, just as the others.

This is who we all were before Jesus. This is the “Natural Man”, unregenerate, unaltered, sin filled

Paul says unsaved people are **not able to understand** spiritual things, they don't have the mind of Christ. It would be wrong to **expect the natural man to see and value spiritual things**, just as it would be wrong to expect a dead body to see the material world.

You may have tried to talk about spiritual things and point out amazing gospel truths to someone who is in a terrible situation, searching for hope, you share Jesus with them, hope they don't get it... they can't! This is the natural man... now Paul will talk about another type of person...

15 But **he who is spiritual judges all things**, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For “who has known the **mind of the Lord** that he may instruct Him?” **But we have the mind of Christ**.

Spiritual, pneumatikos, one who is filled with and governed by the Spirit of God
Spiritual Man, in harmony with God's character

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off **have been brought near by the blood of Christ**.

Saved by the cross of Christ, they are spiritual, this person, a believer can see the things of God, has the wisdom of God. God Himself has put His own “DNA” into you, new life, Spirit is now alive! Gift.

Judge all things... It means you are able to investigate, examine, inquire into, scrutinize, sift, question spiritual matters with the lens of Christ, spiritual truth...

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word** with all readiness, and **sought the Scriptures** daily to find out whether these things were so.

So the spiritual person, the saved person can't be judged or assessed properly by worldly standards, we are judged only by the blood of Christ. This is a real hang up for those who don't know the gospel. Its foolishness that we can be loved & forgiven...

Paul is leading up to this though,

But we have the Mind of Christ, mind nous, reason in the narrower sense, the capacity for **spiritual truth**, the higher powers of the soul, the faculty of perceiving divine things, of recognising goodness and of hating evil.

The new nature, which belongs to the believer by reason of the new birth, this mind of Christ, is what we filter all things through, this is what we mean by thinking with a gospel lens. Peter

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace **be multiplied** to you in **the knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord, **3** as His divine power has **given to us all things** that pertain to **life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him** (takes the mind of Christ to know Him at all) who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have **been given to us** exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may **be partakers** of the **divine nature**, having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust. **5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**, **6** to knowledge self-control, to **self-control perseverance**, to perseverance godliness, **7** to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. **9** For he who lacks these things is **shortsighted, even to blindness**, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins**.

Result of the mind of Christ is the heart of God, where virtue, honor, integrity breed self control, brotherly kindness,, and above all LOVE comes from the mind and heart of Christ!

Paul says , those are the **two types** of people in the world. You have been given a gift, received the wisdom of God, the mind of Christ, the results and return of God's gift to us should be exponentially great if we are living in this newness of life.

But there was a problem, growth wasn't happening, stunted development and here is why...

3 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;

Paul wanted to share so much more, the deep things of God, grow in grace. Like that baby that learns to walk, then run, you want to teach your kid to throw a ball, as they grows you want to teach him to swim, drive a car, love his Lord, be a diligent worker... He wanted to speak to them like they should have been, spiritual people developing deeply. But They were still like babies.

I think God has this here for us to really hear a message for today... We pray for revival to happen, we want change to come and for someone to do it... But maybe God is wanting to use you, but we are stuck in spiritual diaper hood! He calls carnality. This is speaking to a Christian

Carnal, sakekos, "having the nature of flesh," i.e., sensual, controlled by animal appetites, governed by human nature, instead of by the Spirit of God, "

Romans 7 is a portrait of the carnal Christian; indwelt by the Spirit, but **mastered by the flesh**.

Romans 7.23, **23** But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into **captivity to the law of sin** which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from **fleshly lusts**, which **war against the soul**;

Carnal Christian is a baby Christian, Babes, immature, lack of growth, they were too immature they could not handle real food, needed Gerber, baby food. Mother bird, let me chew it up for you, start the digestion process for you, then spit it into your mouth...

Hebrews 5:12 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.

By living as saved worldly carnal babes the church family growth is stunted.

although all the goods were there, fertilizer, soil, water, air, sun, the growth is stunted from something,... toxic, acidic, a sickness... Like the Corinthian church we today have the tendency to **hold on to our old way of thinking**, filter life through the former lens, worldly wisdom..

Eph 4:22 that, in reference to your **former manner of life**, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and **that you be renewed in the spirit** of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Cant receive the word of God & grow in it because carnality.,, some examples of that
Not able to receive it...3 **for you are still carnal**. For **where there are 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?

The people of Corinth were relying on people, pastors, party leaders, and were finding themselves steeped in sinful pride because of who they were led by, taught by, or influenced by.

Paul says this is "carnal thinking". This is the old you, not the reborn you. This is causing division.

Marks of that carnality Paul pointed out... envy, strife, division

Envy, zeal, ardour in embracing, pursuing, **defending anything**, zeal in behalf of, a person or thing, the fierceness of indignation, an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy

Today's age, we see a lot of Christians behaving with indignation, and zeal for their own agendas.

Carnality!

Strife, quarreling, contention, **debate**... to cause Faction,;denotes **"ambition, self-seeking, rivalry,"** self-will being an underlying idea in the word; hence it denotes **"party-making."** "seeking to win followers," Strife... carnality!

Divisions, disunion, to be in unity, harmony, a perfect simphony. Are your words and actions bringing people to the unity of Jesus or causing division in the church and the world? Carnality

Example of factions, I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, look, see our differences, how they divide us, separate us, I am better, your less than, this is carnal thinking.

This is why their growth was stunted. They were reverting back to spiritual diaperhood! They had the mind of Christ, all spiritual knowledge was given to them, yet they were thinking like those unsaved.

As I prayed through these verses this week, and really sat with God on the scripture I couldn't help but feel broken-hearted. This scripture spoke to me about the current state of the church at large, across the US, CC, Calvary ... is spiritually stunted, growth is being inhibited. Like the Corinth the church of America seems to have an identity issue.

Round Table Meeting, Earl Roberts, Capitol Building videos saw some folks holding **flags** saying "**Jesus is my Savior, Trump is my president**" name as the ppl destroyed, looted, and proudly waltzed into the building.

1st Say, "This isn't the church", sadly P Early said, "This **is the church today!**" This has become the identity of the church not portrayed by the media, but from within the walls and church halls there has invaded a carnal identity. As the whining, spoiled, arrogant, and proud.

"But they", whoever they are, "do the same thing to prove a point", yes but we the church have the mind of Christ. Earl said something so profound and prophetic, stuck with me and penetrated my heart "Maybe this is an opportunity for the evangelical church to **take on a new identity!**"

We have been responding with the carnal mind, fight fire with fire... But what does Paul say?

Ephesians 6:9-20

10 Finally, be **strong in the Lord** and in the **strength of his might**. 11 Put on the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the **cosmic powers over this present darkness**, against the **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places**. 13 **Therefore** take up the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace**. 16 In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, *with which* you can **extinguish all the flaming darts** of the evil one; 17 and take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**, 18 **praying** at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. 19 and also for me, that **words may be given** to me in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim the mystery of the gospel**, 20 for **which I am an ambassador** in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

What does Jesus say about enemies, persecution, division? Pray for those who use you, hate you, bless those who curse you, take and go the extra mile. Is this what you see the church doing today? Take it home, is this what YOU are doing? What will your response be to change the identity of the church today?

Are you living life carnally minded, hoping and siding with people, politics, presidents, or church leaders? Oh we cry out for revival, in order for revival to happen nationally it first has to happen personally.

If you want to see revival happen, go to your closet, draw a circle on the floor, step in and seek the Lord, for in that circle is where revival will begin to burn like a blaze!

IT only takes a spark...

We are entitled to nothing, we are told there will be suffering, injustice towards believers, Acts, Epistles, gospels, Paul, Peter, John, Bartimaeus say nothing about standing up in a physical fight against the people of the world. Our battle is to put on Christ, act like we have new life, love those around us and proclaim like ambassadors the GOSPEL of LIFE itself. WE are to endure much suffering.

Voice of the martyrs books and stories of terrible persecution, yes even worse than being told wear masks, or close your store. WHERE peoples families are executed in front of their very eyes. And they find a way to forgive their assailants. TO love and pray for them to receive Jesus, not in protest but in prayer.

That's how the church will develop a new identity, and live spiritually minded. God has given us all things pertaining to godliness and life, it's time we start acting like children of a loving forgiving God instead of like rich arrogant prideful kids of a powerful money hungry father.

Please hear what the Lord is saying in the text today. DO NOT BE CARNALLY MINDED. Think, react, do, based on the spiritual mind of Christ. And DO proclaim Jesus in all your social media posts, in all your actions, thoughts intentions, all your words.

Don't be influenced of the Worlds news, BBC, FOX, ABC, CNN, but let your entire being be altered and radiant by the only news station to watch... The Good NEWS Channel!

The church has an opportunity for a new identity if we choose to identify with Jesus GOOD NEWS & actually LIVE THAT OUT every day.