

## **The Carnal Mind**

### **1Corinthians 3:1-4**

When Paul writes to the brethren in Corinth, he must deal with a condition he described as a carnal mind.

Thayer defines as...

Carnal -- governed by mere human nature not by the Spirit of God

Mind -- what one has in the mind, the thoughts and purposes

Hence, to think or intend according to the flesh.

### **The Carnal Mind is Untaught**

*1Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 5:12-6:3*

Lack of knowledge is dangerous both physically & spiritually - *Hosea 4:6*

Such lack can easily allow error to creep in. We could easily begin to think more of one who seems to have greater knowledge. - *1Corinthians 4:6*

Thus, the admonition to study as the Bereans - *Acts 17:11*

Young Christians need to be concerned that they become instructed in the word -- older to lead the younger. - *Romans 10:1-3*

The carnal mind focuses upon what can be seen and uses human reasoning, determining best course of action based upon friendship or consequences.

We must ensure that we are following God's righteousness, not our own

The carnal mind is not trained in the ways of God, and thus is overcome by the ways of man

### **The Carnal Mind is Enmity with God**

*Romans 8:6-8*

Warfare between flesh and spirit - *Romans 8:6 nkjv & nasb*

The things of the flesh are in direct opposition to the things of the Spirits.

Selfish and only concerned with the here & now, while Spiritual thinking focuses on others, God & what is to come

Our actions have consequences - *Galatians 5:19-26; 6:7-8; 1Peter 2:11*

It is a war that we must fight - *James 4:4; 1John 2:15-17*

Every product brought about by thinking after the way man thinks is opposed to God.

There is no way to get around the fact that setting our minds on the things of the flesh will keep us away from God!

Because of this enmity we must recognize....

### **The Carnal Mind is Divisive in Nature-- it does not promote unity**

*1Corinthians 3:3; 1:10*

When men walk according to human judgment, they walk away from God

You may walk in one of many directions from God

This leads to division, creating problems for self, others, church

Example: Diotrophes - *3 John 9*

Israelites that insisted they could go on into the land of Canaan when they had just refused to go in. *Numbers 14*

The carnal mind cannot help in our service to God for though we fight a spiritual battle...

### **The Carnal Mind Fights Spiritual Warfare with Carnal Weapons**

*2Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:11-17*

Human reason is exalted -- wisdom of God cast down. - *1Corinthians 1:22-24*

Examples from the word of God:

Cain -- thought offering was fine

Golden Calf -- give us a god we can see

Modern examples -- focus upon physical rather than spiritual

Soup lines; Hospitals; Homes for unwed mothers; Church socials; Churches sponsoring any number of things that are the responsibility of the individual.

### **Results of Being Carnally Minded is Death**

*Romans 8:6,13; Galatians 5:21*

Examples: Ananias & Sapphira Acts 5

Spiritual death will separate us from God for eternity

### **Men are Not Forced to Have a Carnal Mind**

*Romans 8:12-14*

Through the Spirit (the Word of God) we can shift our focus away from the flesh and be led by God

Man has the choice of being led by the flesh or spirit

Enlightenment and life comes only through revelation of spirit.

Let us follow the advice of Paul to the brethren in Philippi - **Philippians 2:5**

???