

Carnal and Spiritual Christians

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 3:1-9.

B. The problem with this church is that they should have had a more spiritual thinking, but they were still operating on the thinking of the world.

II. The Corinthians were “of the flesh.”

A. They were “fleshy” people—this is not a negative term; everyone is there before they come to Christ and even after they came to Christ, they had not progressed far from this outlook. (Romans 8)

B. This is spiritual babyhood.

C. They require milk instead of meat.

1. This is food needed for growth.

2. It is truth about resurrection and last things. (Hebrews 6)

3. Christ died for our sins is milk; we died with Christ to sin is meat.

4. The spiritual gift is milk; showing love is meat.

5. Rejoicing in the hope of glory is milk; rejoicing in suffering is meat.

D. The mark of spiritual babyhood is strife; the mark of maturity is cooperation.

1. We are all servants as Christians.

2. Everyone is given a gift with which to serve.

3. God can do it all—we ought to be put in our proper place in regards to people.

4. The church is God’s building that is to grow together.

Application questions:

1. Which item that was classified as “milk” or “meat” by the author was most surprising to you? Explain.

2. With what gifts do you have to serve the church? What needs are there in the church to meet?

3. How will you take a further step into maturity? Which aspect of meat is left most wanting in your life currently?
