1 Corinthians

Wisdom & Unity

Meeting the demands of Christian life and living



Rev. Larrin Robertson Pastor, WORD For Life Church Ministries





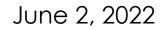
Any questions?



1 Corinthians 3: The Spirit – Flesh Divide

Believers in Corinth fell into one of two groups: spiritual or carnal. Paul gives certain indicators so they might see where they were and choose to be united on the faithful foundation that is Jesus Christ.

<u>Spiritual</u>	VS.	"worldly"/fleshly
pneuma (Spirit)/ pneumatika)S	- sarks (flesh)/ sarkinos
having to do with the Spirit (a	of Spirit)	- having to do with the flesh (of flesh)
indicative of growth		- illustrated as "babes in Christ"
maintains the "temple of God"		- defiles the "temple of God"



1 Corinthians 3: Unity through Maturity

At issue: Division(s) amongst believers due to spiritual immaturity. **Paul's proposal**: Choosing spirituality over worldliness will produce unity among believers and positively represent God as a reflection of Christ.

Immature believers rely on and rally around divisions based on the flesh. Mature believers resist and reject divisions because of the Spirit.

Chapter Outline

Claim of carnality (3:1-4) Call for spirituality (3:5-17) Wisdom for unity (3:18-23)



1 Corinthians 3:1-4 – Claim of Carnality

Paul claimed that the believers in Corinth were functioning through the nature of their flesh and were therefore, spiritually immature.

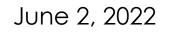
Explanation – v.1-2

➢ He was unable to reveal spiritual truths due to their natural inclinations.
o "Fed you with milk" → See 1 Peter 2:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-13

➤ They were unable to receive nourishment due to their spiritual immaturity.
o "you were not...you are still not able" → See Hebrews 5:14

Examples - v.3-4

- Divisions based on carnal practices
- Beliefs based on carnal ideologies



1 Corinthians 3:5-17 – Call for Spirituality

Paul proclaims the possibility of unity among believers if they reject natural inclinations and strive for spirituality.

Hopelessness of carnality – v.5-7

- Misplaced trust in people
- Misunderstood object for praise
- ➤ Misapplied faith

Reason for unity – v.8-9

- Faithfulness is rewarded by God
- > Fellow laborers are united under God (see also 1 Cor. 15:10-11)
 - The faithful fellow laborers worked in the same "field" for the same purpose.



1 Corinthians 3:5-17 – Call for Spirituality (cont'd)

Foundation for unity – v.10-11

- Continuity of leadership
- > The church's one foundation (see also 1 Cor 15:1-5)

Caution for unity – v.12-15

- > All will be evaluated
- > All will be revealed
- > All will be judged

Care for unity – v.16-17

- Guard God's deposit in you
- Guard God's possession of you

God's field & God's building Spiritual maturation is the result of faithfulness to the One who joins and keeps all together.

June 2, 2022

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 – Wisdom for Unity

Spiritual maturity can be seen in one's view of self. Likewise, a united church can be discerned by how they view themselves together.

Avoid self-deception – v.18-21a

- Reject worldly wisdom as a standard
- ➢ Realize God's dominion over human ingenuity
- Recognize that glory belongs to God

Accept grace – v.21b-23

- ➢ Receive of God's sufficiency
- Exercise of Christian responsibility

"...all are yours." Within God's grace toward us are expressions of both Christian liberty and expectations of Christian responsibility.

June 2, 2022