

1Corinthians – Week 12

I. Review

A. 1Cor. 2:12-16

i. The natural person:

1. He does not understand the things of God nor does he accept them
2. He is governed by his feelings, moods, urges, needs, and desires
3. He relies on his own reasoning to determine what is right and wrong.
4. A natural person looks to human wisdom, to influential and popular leaders, to neighbors, associates and fellow peers for his standards, attitudes and purpose.

ii. The spiritual person:

1. He is a mature, Spirit-led Christian.
2. A spiritual person is more than a person who memorized many Scriptures; He has the mind of Christ: thinking and acting the way God wants him to think and act.
3. He judges (or appraises-NASB) all things.
 - a. Another word for “judges” is “scrutinizes,” which means, to examine closely and minutely.
 - b. A spiritual person scrutinizes and appraises things as being spiritually beneficial or detrimental.
 - c. He is able to discern good from evil (cf. Hebrews 5:14)

II. Chapter 3

A. Quick background review:

- i. In Acts 18, we read of Paul going to Corinth and preaching there.
- ii. He stayed for a year and a half teaching and planting a church there.
- iii. After Paul left, a well-educated man named Apollos showed up and after being instructed by Priscilla and Aquila, he began to preach Jesus more accurately.
- iv. Having this information will help us understand verses 1 and 2...

B. 1Cor. 3:1-2 (ESV), *“But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,”*

i. This passage is dealing with Paul first visit to Corinth:

1. When Paul first came to them, he bottle-fed them the gospel.
2. For a year and a half, he didn’t get into deep theology with them; he stuck with the basic principles (i.e., spiritual milk)...
 - a. Like faith in Christ, repentance from evil deeds, baptism, the resurrection of the dead, eternal judgment, etc. (see Hebrews 6:1-2).
3. That was all they could handle at the time. Do you give a piece of meat to an infant? Of course not!
4. But now, about 5 years later, Paul is chastising them, not because of what he fed them at the time (vv. 1-2a), but because they have not advanced in their faith (v. 2b).
 - a. Five years later: Here he is, addressing them as Christian infants.
 - b. They are not ready for solid food – although by now, they should be, but aren’t!
 - c. Their lack of adding to their faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love (cf. 2Peter 1:5-8) was the cause of their current problems as a church.
 - d. By the way, it is interesting to note that Paul expected 5-year old Christians to be spiritual men/women by now. In fact, judging by Hebrews 5:12, the Corinthians ought to be teachers by now.

C. Practical Application: What principle do we learn from this passage that would prevent us from becoming like the Corinthian church?

i. We Must Grow Up!

- 1. Do not buy into the world's philosophies and ways of thinking.**
- 2. Be more like Jesus in your thinking and action.**
- 3. How is this done?**

a. Learn more about God

- i. We have no problem going to the experts when it comes to a question about a plumbing problem, a health problem or a car problem.**
- ii. But where do we turn to learn about God?**
 - 1. We wouldn't go to Dr. Phil to learn about God!**
 - 2. That's like asking your mechanic what's wrong with your neck!**
 - 3. The only place we learn of God and ourselves is by reading the Bible.**

b. Be Honest

- i. Groups like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous and other "Anonymous" groups have what is called the Twelve-Step program:**
 - 1. Such groups only work if you are honest with yourself.**
 - 2. The first step is to admit you have a problem.**
 - 3. Such groups will tell you that unless you are honest about your problem, you will fight it alone... and you will lose!**
- ii. We don't grow because we don't want anyone to know what we're really like.**
 - 1. So we pretend, and we face our battles alone.**
 - 2. We don't grow because we are too busy hiding.**
 - 3. Before we can be honest with each other, we have to be honest with God.**
 - 4. We have to come to Him and tell Him what we're dealing with and what our struggles are.**

c. Follow Directions

- i. The world gives us all sorts of rules to live by, and we understand most of those rules.**
- ii. We follow them because they make sense to us, or because we know there are consequences for disobeying.**
 - 1. We stop when we see red lights**
 - 2. We pay taxes on everything.**
 - 3. We know we are supposed to recycle our cans and our plastic.**
 - 4. We may not always understand the reasons behind the rules, but we still follow them.**
- iii. God has given us rules to live by as well.**
 - 1. When we follow his rules (even when they don't make sense to us) we will grow.**
 - 2. When the rules of the world and the rules of God come into conflict, follow God's rules—for we are seeking spiritual wisdom, not worldly wisdom.**
 - 3. By the way, when we are obedient to God's commands, we will also see that he knows what he's talking about.**