

# 1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 10

## Carnality in the Church (Chapter 3)

25 August 2017

**CARNAL:** 1. Pertaining to flesh; fleshly; sensual; opposed to spiritual; as carnal pleasure.  
2. Being in the natural state; unregenerate.

**Unsaved:** The natural man with only a carnal nature. Unable to be spiritual.

**Saved:** A combination of the natural man and the spiritual man in conflict with each other. Able to be either carnal or spiritual.

When a saved person thinks, acts, and lives their lives in the same manner as an unsaved, unregenerate person, they are carnal, though saved. They “walk as men” (vs. 3) and not as Christ.

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### CHARACTERISTICS OF CARNALITY IN THE CHURCH:

1. **Envy, strife, and divisions** (vs. 3). These result from self-love.

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2. **Acting like babies.** Only concerned with themselves. Unable to eat meat (vs. 2).

a. **1 Peter 2:1-2.** We begin with milk, but we must graduate to meat.

b. **Hebrews 5:12-14.** “Milk” contains the basic facts of the gospel, which are easily digested by “babes.” “Meat” is the ability to put your Bible knowledge into practice in your daily life. It goes beyond mere knowledge of the facts. It pertains to righteous living (vs. 13), and discernment (vs. 14); skillfully putting your Bible knowledge to practical use.

c. **Galatians 5:19-21** lists the “**works of the flesh**,” some of which the believers at Corinth were guilty of. Failure to get along with the brethren is an indication that you’re a selfish “babe.”

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3. **Exalting a man instead of exalting Jesus Christ whom the man preaches** (vss. 4-5). You can thank God for GIVING you that man to MINISTER to you, but the Lord must get all the praise.

a. **ILLUSTRATION OF LABORERS IN A VINEYARD:** Those who labor in the vineyard would accomplish nothing if it were not for “**God that giveth the increase**” (vs. 7). Be thankful you have part in God’s work and that you’ll be rewarded for it (vs 8).

i. **Proverbs 24:30-34.** We must not get lazy in our work in the vineyard or the church will become “grown over with thorns,” “covered with nettles,” and “broken down.” We can’t afford to “sleep and slumber;” we’ve got to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16) and stay in the field if we want to bring in the harvest.

ii. **John 4:34-38.** We need to always labor with the harvest in view. This will keep you encouraged when it *seems* like you’re having no results presently.

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF CARNALITY IN THE CHURCH: (Continued)

### 4. **Your work consists of things other than the word of God.**

- a. **ILLUSTRATION OF A BUILDING** (vss. 10-13): Jesus Christ is the one and only foundation (vs. 11). Paul laid this foundation, meaning that he preached Christ. A man cannot be the foundation. Your denomination cannot be the foundation. Christ is the one foundation.
  - i. **You must build upon the foundation with the word of God** (gold, silver, precious stones), not traditions, standards, convictions, covenants (wood, hay, stubble).
    1. Note that the context in this chapter is the word of God (milk, meat, good seed), therefore, the building blocks must also refer to the word of God.
  - ii. **The purity of the word of God** (vs. 13). Your works will be tried by fire. What is that fire? (See Jeremiah 23:29) \_\_\_\_\_
    1. How do your works measure up to the word of God? Will they abide? Whatever you're building upon the foundation of Christ must be scriptural.
  - iii. **God's threefold ownership of the church:**
    1. "Ye are God's building" (vs. 9). (How are we treating God's property?)
    2. The church is built upon Jesus Christ, the foundation (vs. 11).
    3. The Holy Spirit lives in the building (vs 16).
      - a. As a result, the temple of God (the church) is holy (vs. 17).
  - iv. **Eternal Security** (vs. 15). This verse proves that works don't save you. The example: if your works are all burned up because you lived a carnal life, you'll be "saved; yet so as by fire" (the word of God!). Your salvation cannot be burned away because it was given you by the word of God, not by your works.

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### 5. **You allow filthiness to remain in the church.** (vs. 17).

- a. **Numbers 19:13.** If you are unclean, it will affect the dwelling place of God.
- b. **2 Chron. 29:16.** Every unclean thing must be removed from God's house.
- c. **Nehemiah 13:4-9.** If you find out there's something dirty in God's house, cast it out!
- d. **1 Cor. 5:1-5.** Those who defile God's house need to be "taken away from among you" (vs. 2) for the "destruction of the flesh" (vs. 5).
- e. **1 Cor. 11:27-30.** You must examine yourself and confess your sins.

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### 6. **You listen to the wisdom of the world** (vss. 18-20).

- a. The world's wisdom contradicts the wisdom found in the word of God. They are not compatible.

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### 7. **You've exalted the preacher or the preacher has exalted himself** (vss. 21-22).

- a. The preacher is yours (vs 22), you don't belong to the preacher.

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### 8. **You compete with the brethren because you don't realize that "all things are yours."**

- a. You are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). You don't need to compete with the brethren.
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