

“WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO BE A CHRISTIAN?”
Sermons on the Spirit-Filled Life

5/30/10

I Cor. 3:1-15

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” (I Cor. 2:9 NLT)

“But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.” (I Cor. 2:10 NLT)

“No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. (I Cor. 2:11 NLT)

“And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.” (I Cor. 2:12 NLT)

“But the people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.” (I Cor. 2:14 NLT)

1. INFANTILE *APPETITES*. (v. 1)

“Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. .” (vv. 1-2 NLT)

“And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.” (Ephesians 1:13b NLT)

Carnal: non-spiritual or anti-spiritual.

“I want to do what is right, but I can’t. I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.” (Romans 7:18b-20 NLT)

A. The Carnal *Emotions*.

B. The Carnal *Self*.

C. The Carnal *Mind*.

2. JUVENILE *ATTITUDES*. (vv. 2-9)

“And you still aren’t ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature.”
(v. 3a NLT)

A. *Mistrust* of Others.

“You are jealous of one another...(v. 3b NLT)

B. *Mistreatment* of Others.

“And quarrel with each other.” (v. 3c) NLT)

C. *Misguided* Loyalty.

“When one of you says, ‘I am a follower of Paul,’ and another says, ‘I follow Apollos,’ aren’t you acting just like people of the world?” (v. 4 NLT)

3. FAULTY *ACTIVITIES*: (vv. 10-15)

“Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder.” (v. 10 NLT)

A. The Spirit-filled Life has a *Variety* of Methods.

“Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials---gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.” (v. 12 NLT)

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have----Jesus Christ.” (v. 11 NLT)

B. The Spirit-Filled Life is *Validated*.

“But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value.” (v. 13 NLT)

C. The Spirit-Filled Life has *Value*.

“If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.” (v. 14 NLT)

“But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.” (v. 15 NLT)