

(1st Corinthians 3:1-4)
“Are You Willing To Change?”

~ INTRO ~

- (1-Corinthians) is a book that “**Applies Christianity**”
 - It’s filled with truth to help us live out our faith...
 - And... avoid wrong beliefs that slip into the church.

~ STUDY ~

- As we turn to (Chp. #3) Paul dives into a topic...
 - That is really needed in the church today.

(1 Cor 2:14 – 3:4)

THREE SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS...

- 1) The natural man = Unbeliever without the spirit
- 2) The carnal man = Saved but immature, controlled by the flesh
- 3) The spiritual man = Mature believer led by the spirit

(John 16:13)

... the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth...

IDEA #1 – DO I HAVE A PROBLEM

- (v.1) The word **carnal** (*sarkikos*) means...
- a) Controlled by the flesh instead of the Spirit.
 - b) Under the control of the animal appetite.

GOD EXPECTS TO FIND FRUIT...

- In the lives of His people.

(Isa. 5:1-4) NKJV

(Luke 13:6-9) NLT

HERE’S THE POINT...

- Normal Christianity should include fruitful-growth.

MANY CHRISTIANS...

- Assume that time in the church produces maturity...

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- But the Bible shows something different.
- This passage is a rebuke on **stagnant Christianity**.

IDEA #2 – FIVE “CAUSES” OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

1) Spiritual Laziness

(Hebrews 5:11) “*You have become **dull** of hearing.*”

- *Dull* (Grk. nōthros) = Sluggish or lazy in listening.

PAUL CORRECTS THE CHURCH...

- Because many were hearing teaching...
 - But not engaging with it in their lives.

2) Failure to Practice the Word

(Heb. 5:13) *Unskilled* - Grk: **apeiros** — inexperienced or untrained.

- The issue is pointed to a lack of spiritual practice.

(Hebrews 5:14) “*By reason of use have their senses exercised...*”

- Spiritual maturity comes through: Application / obedience / practice.

3) Fleshly Living

(1 Cor. 3:3) “*You are still carnal... there is envy, strife, and divisions.*”

- The Corinthians believer’s were controlled by the flesh.

4) Spiritual Distraction

(Luke 8:14) “*The cares, riches, and pleasures of life choke the word.*”

Growth is choked by:

- Worries
- Pursuit of wealth
- Constant entertainment

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5) Staying on Milk

(Hebrews 5:12) “*You have come to need milk and not solid food.*”

Some believers avoid deeper teaching because they only want:

- Simple messages
- Basic encouragement
- Familiar stories

IDEA #3 – THE CURE IS SIMPLE

Spiritual **maturity** happens when four things occur together:

- 1) Hearing the Word
- 2) Understanding the Word
- 3) Applying the Word
- 4) Practicing the word

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS...

- Jesus died for your sin...
 - And He invites you to trust & follow Him.

(Rom. 10:9)

“... *if you believe in your heart and confess Him as Lord, you will be saved.*”

- Saved from the penalty of sin.
- Saved from the guilt of moral failure.
- Saved from trying to fix yourself.