

**“CARNALITY AND SPIRITUAL
PROGRESS”**
1 Corinthians 3:1-4

INTRODUCTION

If you had to summarize it, the exhortation in this section is to “grow up!” Sometimes we need to hear that. The challenges facing this church were not limited to government, laws, or the external pressure of the culture. It was their spiritual maturity. Carnality is spiritual laziness. Jesus wants to save us, but He wants to change us too. We have to cooperate! Corinth was immature, in fact, Paul called them babies. We have to make sure that we don’t draw the line on our own maturity.

MILK VS. MEAT

Paul spent a year and a half feeding the Corinthians spiritual food; Bible doctrine, trust in Jesus, repentance, faith, baptism, doctrine of the Holy Spirit, rapture, Second Coming, church government, elders, etc. Unfortunately, the Corinthians hadn’t moved on to develop a healthy appetite of God’s Word. As a consequence, they didn’t apply the scriptures to affect their own development. They didn’t know the Word in order to feed themselves or take advantage of what was available to them. Here, Paul addresses the attitude for learning. (There’s a huge difference between the diet for a baby versus the diet for an adult). The result of this neglect led to envy and division in the church. By now, the Corinthians should have been teachers (*mentioned 3 times*), and so should many of you!

CONSIDER

It’s always good for each of us to take time to inventory the elements of our spiritual growth...

- What is my consistency in church attendance? Once in a while? Once a month? Weekly? Twice a week?
- What is my level of interest to listen, to learn and then to apply the Word? Am I sluggish, lazy or don’t try to put forth any effort?
- What personal responsibility or initiative do I have to learn the Scriptures? Do I place all the responsibility on the speaker to motivate me?

Applying the Word has power – that’s maturity! We need to know the Scriptures, apply them to our own situations, make sound scriptural decisions, and then our character will *change*, and thus Glorify God!

- **PRAY ...**
- Pray that more Churches would address this single issue.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would show each individual their own carnality in order to actually mature!