

**Series "Called To Be Saints"**  
**"Three Kinds Of Men"**  
**1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4**  
**Study-5**

**Our passage reveals why people respond so differently to God's wisdom. Response determines what type of person we really are!**

**Paul Describes 3 Types of People in Our World:**

- 1. Natural (Unsaved)** live off the natural senses. **(Israel in Egypt, World)**
- 2. Spiritual (Saved)** walking in God's will. **(Israel in Canaan, Spiritual)**
- 3. Carnal (Saved but living as if unsaved)** These are people who pursue the things of the world instead of the Spirit. **(Israel in the Wilderness, Flesh)**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-6:20 Reproof: The Report Of Sin In The Church:**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-4:21 Divisions In The Church:**

**Thought of Our Passage:** "God's Wisdom Is Absent In The Natural Man, But Present In The Spiritual Man, And Wasted In The Carnal Man"

**1. Verse 14 The Natural Man:**

**2. Verses 15-16 The Spiritual Man:**

**3. Verses 14 The Carnal Man:**

**1. Verse 14 The Natural Man:**

**1 Corinthians 2:14 But** - Paul has been speaking about God's wisdom. God's teachers are disciples of Jesus who are to keep the message simple because the **power is in the message** not the messenger.

**But a natural man** - refers to *"the unsaved person, those not born again"*

**The Context** – Paul has been speaking about God's wisdom, Paul now describes how people respond to His Wisdom.

Paul now moved from the objective nature of divine wisdom to the subjective responses

**Paul described the unsaved person in 5 ways.**

- 1. The Natural Man Is Soulsh: But a natural man** - The word **natural** – Greek *"soul" governed by the senses*. Those that are physically alive

but are spiritually dead **Ephesians 2:1; Jude 19 worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**

**Man is Spirit, Soul, and Body.** When man sinned in **Genesis 3, 1 Thessalonians 2:23 Spirit, Soul and Body (Unsaved Body, Soul and last Spirit)**

- 2. The Natural Man Does Not Receive Spiritual Things: does not accept** *"to welcome, to embrace, to make one's own"* **the things of the Spirit of God;** An unsaved person will not receive the things of God which are spiritual. **(Believer James 1:21) John 8:47**
- 3. The Natural Man Regards The Spiritual As Foolishness: for they are foolishness to him,** - The non-believer looks at the teachings of Christ as outdated and out of step. *"absurd, insipid, and distasteful"*  
**1 Corinthians 1:18**
- 4. The Natural Man Has No Spiritual Ability: and he cannot understand them,** - The teachings of God cannot be understood with the human mind.

Example: Jesus said, **"I AM The Bread Of Life"** **John 6:55** People took it as cannibalism; **Matthew 5:30**

- 5. The Natural Man Does Not Have The Holy Spirit: because they are spiritually appraised.** - *"to scrutinize, investigate, interrogate, discern, examine, judge, search"* *The cause of his inability to know spiritual things is that they are spiritually discerned by men in whom the Spirit dwells and enlightens.* **John 16:13-15**

## **2. Verses 15-16 The Spiritual Man:**

**1 Corinthians 2:15 "he that is spiritual** - is saved, indwelt by the Spirit of God, and yielded to Him. No longer blinded by Satan **(2 Corinthians 4:4),** enlightened by God **(Ephesians 1:18)**

### **3 Qualities Of The Spiritual:**

- 1. The Spiritual Man Judges All Things: appraises all things,** - As a spiritual man, you can see things from God's perspective. *"he is able and permitted to judge"* The spiritual man is not limited in his judging: *"everything he desires to judge he may judge"*

- 2. The Spiritual Man Is Judged by No Man: yet he himself is appraised by no one.** *"he is judged (discerned or examined) by no unbeliever"*  
**2 Corinthians 1:24**

**1 Corinthians 2:16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? (Isaiah 40:13)** Since no man knows the mind of God, no man can teach or counsel God; since all spiritual believers have the mind of Christ, no unsaved person can counsel them.

- 3. The Spiritual Man has the Mind of Christ: But we have the mind of Christ.**

To **"have the mind of Christ"** means to look at life from the Savior's point of view.

How do we have Christ's mind? Through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the teacher.

### **3. Verses 1-4 The Carnal Man**

- 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren,** Paul is speaking to Christians.

#### **The Carnal is Identified in 4 Ways:**

- 1. The Carnal Man Is Saved: could not speak to you as to spiritual men,** - What does he mean? *Persons that are saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit but is not yielded to Him.* **John 1:12**

**Spiritual Man** - *is one that is seeking the will of God. He is one that is following the Lord and the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

- 2. The Carnal Is Fleshly: but as to men of flesh,** - This word speaks of *"animal, fleshly"* He is speaking to Christians and they were living like the world. **Romans 8:12**

- 3. The Carnal Man Is An Infant: as to infants in Christ.** He now says that they were like baby Christians.

**Babies don't know better, so you have to protect them:  
Baby proof your home. Babies need parents for protection  
Babies need parents in order to grow:**

**Verse 2 Their Spiritual Diet Is Limited: I gave you milk to drink,**

**Biblical milk involves fundamental, theological principles:**

**Hebrews 5:11-14; Hebrews 6:1**

**Milk - That which Jesus Christ accomplished on earth during His ministry, the children's stories.**

**Meat is preaching that unfolds the full riches and magnificence of the gospel so that people grow up. Doctrine and its application.**

Stop being children, Paul says **Ephesians 4:14**

**Christ died for my sins; that is milk. We died with Christ to sin: that is meat.**

**Indeed, even now you are not yet able,** - These were believers that were stagnated.

**Verses 3-4 Their Conduct: for you are still fleshly.**

*"walk according to the flesh instead of according to the Spirit"*

**Worldly Discontentment And Strife: For since there is jealousy**

**and strife** – *"squabble, be in discord"* That is a sign of the flesh and immaturity.

**among you, are you not fleshly,** Just like the world!

**Galatians 5:19-21**

**4. The Carnal Man Acts Like the Unsaved Man: and are you not walking like mere men?**

**1 Corinthians 3:4**

**Example Of carnality Is Identifying With Man: (Party Spirit)**

**"I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?**

**Application:**

- 1.** What is my belief regarding God's wisdom? Is it foolishness? Do I get it? Can I see the greatness in it? (We could be unsaved)
- 2.** Am I becoming more enlightened in the things of God? Do I see my life changing? Is God opening my eyes to the emptiness of our world?
- 3.** Do I desire the here and now over the eternal and spiritual? Are my thoughts more in tune with my natural senses than the spiritual?