

# Letters to the church in...



# Corinth

**Focus:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

## Lesson 3-Spiritual Food and Personal Responsibility

- **Sharing Spiritual food with Carnal people requires Spiritual milk (v.1-4)**
  - *The people were more earthly than spiritual and they spiritual milk to subdue their hearts with the grace of God's Spirit (v.2). There are many things that God's word has for us to understand, but so often **we must begin to understand the basic, first principles of Jesus Christ, before we can go on to understand well the other lessons that Jesus has for us.***
  - *"Spiritual milk" is like food for babies. It is the Spiritual truth that nurtures our hearts in the grace of Jesus Christ, and helps our hearts to become converted to Jesus Christ.*
  - **How can you recognize carnal, earthly, sin problems which need to be dealt with? (v.3,4)** *(these were not living by the grace of Jesus Christ or His prayer and plan—John 17:21,23) **Apparently, even in the churches, we may be facing these problems because so many may be underdeveloped in our Spiritual experience (like babies, and needing so much more of the transforming grace of Jesus Christ in our hearts).***
  - **How can we distinguish clearly between the Carnal, sinful nature, and the Spiritual nature that would come from Jesus Christ? (Galatians 5:19-21, 22-25).** *Clearly, we cannot remain in our natural, sinful tempers. Jesus does approve of that. God pleads with us, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds..." (Romans 12:2)*
- **It is "God who gives the increase." We are not merely to be followers of some man, but rather, followers of God (v.5-9)**
  - *The Lord has a work to be done in reclaiming the souls of men who are lost from Him. **The word of God is His seed. It should be sown into our hearts and nurtured by the grace of God's Spirit.** Jesus taught about the work of His word upon our hearts, and about the various soils that hear the word (Mark 4:3-8, 14-20).*
  - *God will bless those who will work earnestly for Him (ref. Daniel 12:3).*
- **Jesus Christ is our only Foundation. But take heed how we build on top of it (v.10-15)**
  - *In one primary sense, **this is referring to those who teach and share the word of God.** They should be careful what they are teaching; making sure it is truly the word of God, and not just some foolish and worldly opinions. If they teach and build falsely, by ignorance, yet in sincerity, their false work (teachings) will be destroyed and lost, and they may perhaps be saved yet (but just barely, "so as by fire") (see James 3:1).*
  - *But, in another sense, **this also refers to how we choose to build upon the foundation of Christ. How do we build up our Christian experience?** Are we building rightly? If we build wrongly in ignorance (by false teachings or such) we may perhaps be saved (but just barely...perhaps even lost though). If we cherish sin, we'll surely be lost (see Ezekiel*

18:24; in unintentional ignorance something may perhaps be overlooked by God—Acts 17:30; James 4:17), but we had better be careful. The false, the sinful, and the evil will all be destroyed. The day of God will declare it (v.13). Make sure we build well, or we may be lost!!

- **Our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We should not defile our bodies, but keep them clean, pure, and holy (v.16,17)**
  - What is one way in which people might defile their body temples? (Mark 7:20-23) (a spiritual and moral law violation—sin)
  - Another way in which people may defile their body temple is by abusing the natural laws of God in regard to our physical health. We should offer our “bodies” as a “living sacrifice” to God, keeping them pure and holy (Romans 12:1).
- **Do not deceive yourself by following the world’s earthly wisdom (v.18-23)**
  - We should follow the simplicity of God’s holy word and His teachings for us.
  - **“...let no man glory in men” (v.21).** We should glorify only Christ. Don’t follow after the admiration of mere men. Instead, look to Jesus Christ for all things!! And glorify Jesus!!

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

Would you like Jesus to be your spiritual foundation? \_\_\_\_\_ *Is it your desire to build wisely upon Him?*\_\_\_\_\_