

Four Kinds of Men

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 2:14-3:4.
- B. In the spiritual life, our ideal is Jesus Christ.
- C. There is another ideal in the spiritual life—the spiritual man.
- D. There are four kinds of men.

II. The natural man.

- A. This is the lost man. (Romans 8:9, Jude 19)
- B. He is defined by two characteristics: he does not welcome spiritual things and he cannot know them. He cannot examine and respond to spiritual things. (II Timothy 2:19)

III. The spiritual man.

- A. This is never a young Christian, no matter how zealous he is. He is a mature Christian. (I Corinthians 3:1)
- B. The spiritual man is marked by discernment. Discernment comes with time. (Hebrews 5:13-14, Galatians 6:1)

IV. The baby Christian or the “fleshen” Christian. (I Corinthians 3:1-2)

- A. Paul does not fault a baby for being a baby Christian.
- B. A baby has to be fed slowly.

V. The carnal Christian.

- A. He cannot understand deeper truths.
- B. He cannot get along with other Christians.

VI. Conclusion.

- A. The spiritual life should be the kind of life that produces the spiritual man.
- B. Baby Christians ought not to be discouraged if the spiritual man is the end product of the Christian life. It is a gradual development.
- C. The spiritual life is a well-rounded life. There is no one Christian secret to growth.

D. No matter how mature a man is, there is a huge task of growth ahead. (Philippians 3)

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between a carnal Christian and a baby Christian?

2. What is surprising about Paul's description of the spiritual man?

3. Why should Christians be encouraged no matter what point they are at in their Christian life?
