

What Are the Signs of a Carnal Church

1 Corinthians 3:1-7

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, **but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.**

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, **neither yet now are ye able.**

A strong chastisement from the Apostle Paul. These disciples of Jesus Christ are being told that they are carnal and still in need to be fed with milk and not with meat because they can't bear it! Don't be so quick to say that you can. Can you really? Or are you still in need of the milk? Are you still a babe in Christ even though you should be of age or an adult still in the process of growing which is needful? Unless you are new to the Lord Jesus Christ which of course you would still be a babe.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

It is God that gives the increase. It is his laborers that minister or witness his Word to souls. Is there envying in you? Strife in you? Divisions within your congregation with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

James 3:14-16

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

God is not the author of confusion and where bitter envying and strife is there is also every evil work! Are you a carnally minded Church? Carnally minded followers of Christ?

1 Peter 3:8-11

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto **called**, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

It is time to put away the milk, the carnality, pick up the meat, and spirituality.

Hebrews 5:8-14

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Jesus Christ learned “obedience by the things which he suffered” and the savior of those “that obey him”.

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Are your ears dull of hearing also? Do you understand “the first principles of the oracles of God” **of which refer to the** “Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.” (Romans 9:4-5) **Also referring to these six principles of the doctrine of Christ of which you must have knowledge of** in order to be saved yourself, and to instruct others, as well as these six principles of the doctrine of Christ are in direct reference to “the first principles of the oracles of God,” **of which topics is the full understanding of what each principle is in reference to?** “not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” (Heb 6:1-2)

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

One of the seven abominations mentioned in scripture to us that the Lord God hates is:

Proverbs 6:19b

19 ... he that soweth discord among brethren.

Even as the Apostle Paul says, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.** For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, **that there are contentions among you.** Now this I say, that every one of you saith, **I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.** **Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.”** (1 Cor 1:10-15)

“Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” **All this was clarifying to the Christians that there was to be no division among them and that they all had been baptized in Jesus name for the remission of their sins, not baptized in the name of Paul.** “was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38) “Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, **on Christ Jesus.** **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (Acts 19:4-5)

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Proverbs 14:30b

30 **but envy the rottenness of the bones.**

There is no division in the body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 12:24-26

24 For our comely parts have no need: **but God hath tempered the body together**, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:
25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.
26 And whether one member suffer, **all the members suffer with it**; or one member be honoured, **all the members rejoice with it.**

Ephesians 5:29-30

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; **but nourisheth and cherisheth it**, even as the Lord the church:
30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.
19 And if they were all one member, **where were the body?**
20 But now are they many members, **yet but one body.**

If “we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” are you not yet carnal when you have “envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

1 John 3:14-16

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, **because we love the brethren.** He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
15 **Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer**: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:20-21

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Galatians 5:13-16

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Are “ye not carnal, and walk as men” when you deny the power of the Holy Ghost?

2 Timothy 3:5

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Are “ye not carnal, and walk as men” when you teach “that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.” (1 Tim 6:5)

Denying the power of the Holy Ghost is to deny the resurrection power of the Holy Ghost!

Romans 8:9-11

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Denying the power of the Holy Ghost is do deny the receiving of the Holy Ghost evidenced with the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance!

Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Denying the power of the Holy Ghost is do deny that the gifts of the Holy Ghost are still in operation today by the believers!

Mark 16:15-17

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

1 Corinthians 12:1

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 14:1, 12

1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

From the words of Jesus you can see that these signs of the Holy Spirit will follow the believers, “**In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues**” and we can also see from Jesus’ words that many people who have done mighty works in his name were not continually obedient to him and in the day of his coming he will “**profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**”

Luke 12:42-48

42 And the Lord said, **Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?**

43 **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.**

44 **Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.**

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 **The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.**

47 **And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.**

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.