

## What kind of a Christian am I ?

**And I brethren could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal...**

1 Cor.3:1

### Am I a carnal Christian?

Have I been a born again Christian for 10, 20 or 30 years and yet I'm still a carnal Christian?

**For you are yet carnal: for where there is envying, strife and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere (unsaved) men?**

1 Cor. 3:3

What is a carnal Christian? A carnal Christian may be defined as one who:

- Lives and decides things primarily by the intellect (the carnal mind).
- Endeavors through will power to live a godly life in conformity to the scriptures (attempting to live by the law through natural human, that is, carnal means)
- Tends to think of Christ and God's kingdom as somewhere out in space as opposed to within the heart (God is perceived as impersonal and remote).
- In all honesty has very little confidence in the value of prayer.
- Is still prone to sin in some areas and resigned to the inevitability of sin.
- Has a diminishing enthusiasm and boldness for winning souls to Christ.
- Does not enjoy enduring peace and rest in daily fellowship with God the Father.

Every born again Christian has two natures: his old nature, the natural human or "carnal" part of him inherited from his parents, this includes the body and brain and is often referred to as the flesh, this is his lower nature. He also has a new nature, the part of Him that was made over by God when he was born again, this is his spirit or heart sometimes called the inner man or the hidden man of the heart, this is his higher nature and the place where Christ dwells in him. The carnal Christian continues to live in his lower nature, meaning his will or soul, during the course of a day, is largely ruled by his own human nature. The spiritual Christian lives primarily in his higher nature, meaning his will or soul is largely in subjection to his own spirit, the place where Christ dwells.

**For to be carnally minded is death** (not physical death but separation from spiritual life which is God) **but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

Rom. 8:6

God desires that every one of us Christians be taught of Him to live in the spirit which means to abide in Christ, the secret place of the most high, in other words the Spirit-filled Christian life. But how do I move or grow from being a carnal Christian (the equivalent of living in the wilderness) to being a spiritual Christian (the equivalent to living in the promised land)? Without God's enablement it is impossible. God's enabler, the only one who can enable me to successfully live the Christian life, is the Holy Spirit. However for the Holy Spirit to enable me to continually overcome my flesh and live in the spirit He must have complete authority and control of my will and my life.

For this to happen, for God the Holy Spirit to literally rule in my life (in other words for God to be truly my God and Jesus to be truly my Lord) I must first be brought (by God) to such a place of trust and confidence in God's love, His goodness and His willingness to take full care of me far better than I could, that I am genuinely willing, without any fear or reservation, to totally surrender my will and life to Him. This humble step, this crossing of the river Jordan (the word Jordan means descending) is the key to the door that leads out of the carnal Christian life in the flesh and into the abundant life of Christ in the spirit.

**...Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**  
Heb. 12:9

**So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...** Rom. 8:8-9

While I, as a Christian, remain in control of my life taking all my decisions in my brain, that is my fleshly or carnal mind (which is not subject to God's rule-Rom. 8:7) then God the Holy Spirit cannot be in control. Just as a natural parent cannot be in control of a child that is un-submitted to that parent's control and an employer cannot be in control of an employee that is unyielding to the employer's control, neither can God be in control of a Christian unless the Christian voluntarily chooses to fully surrender to God.

**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God** (living as true sons under God's authority as opposed to prodigal sons who are not)  
Rom.8:14

**...The Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him** (meaning as the great Bible teacher R.A. Torrey puts it, God gives the Holy Spirit only to those who absolutely give up their own will to God in everything). Acts 5:32

## Moving from a Carnal Christian to a Spiritual Christian

Carnal	—————>	Spiritual
In the flesh	—————>	In the spirit
Unweaned	—————>	Weaned
Self-life	—————>	Christ-life

- We receive God's forgiveness (again) and grant genuine forgiveness to others, based solely on what Jesus Christ did at Calvary – we do it by faith. God says we can do it – we just do it. Mat. 6:12 & 14.
- We begin to hate our life as it is with me still largely running things: John 12:25
- We are really willing and wanting to let God take control of our life: Mat. 11:29

This is the prerequisite to the baptism with (and thereby God taking control of us by) His Holy Spirit: Rom. 8:14

Our consuming desire is to be filled with and led by the Holy Spirit in all our choices and decisions. We ask the Father for the Holy Spirit in accordance with His promise in Luke 11:13. When we ask we believe that we receive the Holy Spirit exactly as Jesus described in Matthew 21:22 and Mark 11:24. Henceforth we now confidently expect to be led by God's Spirit in every area of our lives. We understand that for the most part that leading will come by the inward witness of God's Spirit bearing witness with my own spirit as revealed in Romans 8:16. When the Holy Spirit of God dwells in us we are no longer in the flesh but in the spirit according to Romans 8:9.

- We now become very encouraged and serious about discovering for ourselves the wonderful mystery of God our Father revealing Himself to our hearts, through His Son and Word by His gentle Spirit: Jer. 29:13, Mark 4:11, Col. 2:2. As God speaks to me each day through His word and I believe and embrace His words in my heart I find He is changing me, old habits drop away, the power of my flesh diminishes and my interest in the spiritual well being of others increases. 2 cor. 3:18, John 8:32, Romans 8:29. It's His goodness that changes my mind about so many things, mostly the lies I may have believed about Him. Romans 2:4.