

Carnal or Spiritual?

Intro: Every Christian should aspire to becoming what God wants him to be. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul describes the congregation as “carnal”. Today, we look at what that might mean. Then, we look at two people, Abraham and Lot, whose lives may help us to see the difference between “Carnal or Spiritual”.

1. The Picture of “Carnal” in Corinth

- A. In one sense, carnal things are simply physical things of comfort. 1 Cor. 9:11
- B. In 1 Cor. 3:1, carnal becomes a negative, rather than “neutral”.
- C. In 1 Cor. 3:3, it is implied that we should eventually grow out of it.
- D. Also in 3:3, envy, strife, and divisions indicate carnality.
- E. In 3:4, over identification with another person is termed carnal.

2. Abraham, The Spiritual, Why so?

- A. “Departed as the Lord had spoken” – Genesis 12:4
- B. Strife arises and he is pro-active for a peaceful solution. Gen. 13:8-9
- C. Rescued Lot when we understand why he might not have. Gen. 14:8-12
- D. Tried to persuade God to not destroy Sodom. Genesis 18
- E. Why more concerned with others and their things? See Hebrews 11:8

3. Lot, The Carnal

- A. Gen. 12:1-3 –Leaves with Abraham from Ur as a noted significant.
- B. Genesis 13 – When strife arises, he acts in his own self-interest – 13:10-13
- C. Gen. 13 – Becomes a city dweller and chooses a wicked place – 13:12-13
- D. Gen. 14 – He and his family are rescued by Abraham.
- E. Gen. 19 – Seems to have achieved some status in Sodom – 19:1
- F. Gen. 19:8 – Offers his daughters to be sexually violated
- G. Gen. 19:14 – Sons-in-law will not take his warning seriously.
- H. Gen. 19:17-20 – A revealing distinction

Concl: From our look at the Corinthians and comparing Abraham and Lot, we learn that being carnal is being too connected (physically and philosophically) to the physical things that will entrap us if we don't make a clear selection for the spiritual. So who best describes us, Abraham or Lot?