

## **In This World (Pt.3)**

### ***What in this World Does the Spirit Control?***

(1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

**Introduction:** It is amazing to me how much our world today is like the world of Paul's day. The city of Corinth during Paul's time was a very important and ungodly place much like our world today. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 6:9-11) And Paul is writing to the believers who lived in this city and world, much that was like ours is today to remind us; *"But we have the mind of Christ!"* even in this world! *Now you may look at this world and wonder, "What in this world does the spirit control?"* First, He controls...

#### ***I. Introducing the wisdom of God to us: (v.6-10)***

**A. The wisdom of God is** - Is one of God's desires for mankind so we can live intelligently, honestly and full lives in this world –

- a. **Receiving God's guidance by His wisdom** comes by faith believing our lives and minds have been possessed by the living God. (vv. 11-12)
- b. **He has taken up residence in us in God the Holy Spirit**, to enlighten us to be able to walk in the light as He is light. (1 Jn. 1:7; Rom 8:14)
- c. **The basis of the wisdom of God is not human cleverness**, (which is what many try to reduce it to) this is what Paul says in (v. 13).

**B. There is a wisdom of the natural man, which is worldly wisdom –**

1. *V. 14, says that the natural man...*
2. **Human wisdom is earthly and often brings about disappointment**, shame and despair. (Prov.1:20,24-26; 9:10; Dan.2:20; Rom.16:27; 1 Cor.1:30; Jn.1:5-8).
  - a. *The word "natural" speaks of human wisdom that is sensual.*
  - b. *Besides being earthly and sensual, human wisdom is demonic - (Jn 3:15; 2 Cor.11:14-15)*

**C. The Holy Spirit is the source of the wisdom of God –** (Jn 3:1,10).

1. **Wisdom of God does not speak of knowledge**, but of interpretation. (v15, *Judge or discern all things.*)
2. **Natural or earthly wisdom looks at the facts but draws the wrong conclusions**
3. **The wisdom of God controls the spiritual man** by illuminating the written word of God to the believer, enabling him to understand, make decisions, and have discernment, and judgments about all things based on the wisdom of God. (*Prov 1:7*)

Only as the believer increases in the knowledge of God and His word by the Spirit, can the wisdom of God develop. *The Holy Spirit does this by...*

#### ***II. Instructing us in the things of God: (v. 15)***

**1. The word "judge" means** - To sift the evidence and reach proper conclusions. (Judgement should always begin with us...) *In (3:1) Paul introduces these Christians as Carnal*

**A. The word "Carnal" means** – "Fleshly or worldly" a "Carnal Christian" is a "worldly Christian." *They like to talk more than they walk.* (Col.3:1; Mt. 6:19; Heb.11:25)

*He does not become carnal because of these things, - these things are true of him because he is carnal – We cannot cut off the works of the flesh by pure human effort, they only are cut out by the control of the Holy Spirit!*

*(How do you tell the difference between a carnal Christian & a natural man?)*

- a. **Conviction** (Ps. 51)
- b. **Chastisement** – (Heb.12:8; 1 Cor.11:30)

**2. Second instruction in the things of God the Holy Spirit controls** - *Our judgment of others – We begin with ourselves lest we be judged. Then when it comes to others, we are to be discerning*

**3. The third area of instruction in the things of God the Spirit gives us, is the way we judge scripture** – the way the spiritual man comes to judge scripture is ...

- a. **He investigates all scripture** - (2 Tim 3:16) (Like a detective examining a crime scene, we search the word out).
- b. **He inquires of the word of God** in regards to all things, and he grows in appreciation and understanding and application of its contents.

**4. Fourth, instruction of the things of God come through the Holy Spirit in regard to the issues of life** – *The spiritual man discerns all things.* He has a different value system. He sees things through a different lens. (Through the eyes and mind of Christ). Finally, the Holy Spirit

#### ***III. Implants the mind of God in us: (v.16)***

**A. One of the marks of a spiritual man is that he lives by the Spirit.** He has received the Spirit of God.

1. Believers are people who have been radically and supernaturally changed by the new birth. God inhabits them. (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)
2. The Holy Spirit lives inside of them, showing and teaching them spiritual truth. (1 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 1:18)

**B. When one becomes a true believer, he receives the Spirit of God**, he receives the "organ" of spiritual knowledge so that he may know God. (1 cor.2:11) – Lit. understanding of the deep truths of God. (Eph.1:18; Col.1:9; 1 Jn.5:20; Jn.10:3; 1 Cor.1:18)

*The spiritual man stands out from the rest of the world as different because, he is alive to God and dead to sin.*

**Conclusion:** *The tragedy of the Christian life in this world is not what men suffer, as they walk through this troubled world, but what they miss while doing it! What they're missing is being controlled by the spirit. What in this world are you waiting for, start today enjoying the trip be receiving the mind of Christ the Spirit gave you!*