

**Hebrews 5:11-14:** “We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though ***by this time*** you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. ***You need milk, not solid food!*** <sup>13</sup> ***Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.*** <sup>14</sup> But solid food is ***for the mature***, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

- It’s possible to behave \_\_\_\_\_ like the \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 3:3-4:** “You are still ***worldly***. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? ***Are you not acting like mere men?*** <sup>4</sup> For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” ***are you not mere men?***”

**Galatians 5:16-26:** “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of *the sinful nature*. <sup>17</sup> For *the sinful nature* desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to *the sinful nature*. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. <sup>19</sup> *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:* sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. *I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.* <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

## 2. A Christian should move on to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**KEY QUESTION:** *What is spiritual maturity?*

- **Do not confuse spiritual maturity with \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Do not confuse spiritual maturity with a persons spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Spiritual maturity has to do with how \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ you are.**

**John 14:15:** “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

**Philippians 2:1-8:** “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**KEY QUESTION:** So how about you?

- *Are you still* a spiritual infant?
- *Are you still* on spiritual milk and have not moved beyond the basics?
- *Are you still* acting fleshly – as if you were not a Christian?

## SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Small Groups will continue through the week of December 14-18 and then take a brief break for Christmas & Resume January 4-8.

### Pray for one another...

- 1). Paul said the Corinthians were 'worldly' (i.e., Fleshly – a reference to how they lived according to the flesh / sinful desires) and not 'spiritual' (i.e., mature). In what ways were they worldly? (See 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:1-4 & the rest of the book).
- 2). What do you think God thinks about divisions, quarrels and fighting among Christians today? When Christians behave in this way what does that say about their spiritual condition? (James 4:1-3).
- 3). In the past some Bible teachers have said that there are three groups of people mentioned in 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4 – the saved (the Spiritual Man), the unsaved (Natural Man) & the Carnal Christian (Saved yet living like he/she is not). Is Paul teaching that a Christian can be a Christian and remain in a Carnal (Fleshly) state? Is this condition okay according to Paul?
- 4). How long have you been a Christian? Would you describe yourself as 'spiritual' (Mature), or 'worldly' (Fleshly / Exhibiting a lifestyle and/or behavior that is not Christian)? To evaluate yourself, review Galatians 5:16-26 to see what character traits best fit your life (those of the flesh/sinful nature or the Spirit).
- 5). If you are worldly, how might you change?
- 6). What do you think of Pastor Cory's explanation of 'spiritual maturity'? See point #2.
- 7). What is our greatest need – to know more, or to obey more? Is it to know more, or to apply what we know? Do you apply what you already know?

## SERIES: LIFE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

### Today's Message: "*Moving on the Maturity*"

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

Pastor Cory Anderson / 11.29.09 / SMC

### INTRODUCTION:

#### 1. A Christian can be stuck in a state of \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 3:1: "**Brothers**, I could not address you as *spiritual...*"

#### THE CORINTHIANS WERE CHRISTIANS BUT SPIRITUALLY IMMATURE

They were called (1:9, 26-31), sanctified (set apart 1:2), and kept eternally secure by God (1:8). Paul also refers to the Corinthians as 'brothers' (1:10, 26; 2:1; 3:1) and 'infants in Christ' (3:1).

#### 4 TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL IMMATUREITY

- It's possible to be \_\_\_\_\_ and not spiritual.

1 Corinthians 3:1: "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual *but as worldly.*"

- It's possible to be a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ for too long.

1 Corinthians 3:1: "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—*mere infants in Christ.*"

- It's possible to get stuck on spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4: "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> *I gave you milk, not solid food*, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, *you are still not ready.* <sup>3</sup> *You are still worldly.*"