

CARNALITY
THE NATURAL vs. THE SPIRITUAL
Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, July 9, 2008

This worksheet was created by Assistant Pastor Phenis to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to the sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php> or a CD can be purchased (for \$1.00) from the church Media Ministry.

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Here are a few thought provoking statements about carnality.

- Ø Carnality is probably the single most destructive force to our faith and trust in God and the unseen things of the Spirit.
- Ø It is a force that is as natural to human life as it is powerful to the _____ of our faith.
- Ø The carnal mind is what usually keeps us from reaching our full potential in Christ and causes problems with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Ø The Carnal Mind is said in Scripture to be the _____ of God.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

In order for us to avoid carnality and being carnally minded we must first understand what it is.

#1. Carnality: It's Definition and It's Origin.

A. Definition of Carnality:

Carnality or Carnal comes from the Greek word Sarx which means Flesh. It pertains to our actual fleshly bodies but also to the natural, earthly, fleshly appetites.

1. It means _____ nature...
2. The lower side of man as apart from the Divine influence, and therefore estranged from God and prone to sin... (whatever in the soul is weak and tends toward ungodliness.) Thus one may be carnal.
----- I.S.B.E
3. Enjoyments that minister to the wants and desires of man's animal nature.

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So people can be carnal, things can be carnal and activities can be carnal.

The main thing we need to remember here about carnality is it is simply stated as human nature. It is that part of us that is given over to natural, worldly, fleshly lusts rather than Spiritual.

B. Origin of Carnality:

Since we now know that Carnality incorporates our human nature and involves worldly appetites and thoughts it stands to reason then that carnality must have a _____ origin. In other words it's like sin in the sense that we are all born with carnal Ideals and thoughts.

We learned a few weeks back that man is a Tri-unity or made up of three parts.

1. Body = Worldly Influence
2. Soul = The Real You
3. Spirit = Godly Influence

When we are born we are born into sin and as a result of this our Spirit is dead within us. This leaves us with the only influence in our lives being the influence of the Body. The Body feeds off of the World and it's appetites and allurements.

As humans we put a lot of stock into what we _____. How many of you have ever heard someone say "I'll believe it when I see it." How many of you have said it?

Jesus appearance after His resurrection:

Joh 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

Joh 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

In other words Thomas was saying, "I'll believe it when I see it."

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#2. How does the Carnal mind work and how is it contrasted with or by the Word of God?

A. The Carnal Mind focuses more on the here and now.

The Word of God says, **2Co 4:18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The carnal mind focuses on the here and now but God says we must focus on the _____.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Carnality is putting too much stock into this world and what it has to offer.

B. The Carnal Mind focuses more on what we can physically do. Trusting in ourselves more than in God.

The Word of God says, **Zec 4:6** ...This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

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C. The Carnal Mind focuses on what God _____ do. Example: God can't forgive me I've done too much wrong.

The Word of God says, **Rev 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely - Rev 21:6. Every one that is disposed to come, that has any sincere wish to be saved, is assured that he may live. No matter how unworthy he is; no matter what his past life has been; no matter how old or how young, how rich or how poor; no matter whether sick or well, a freeman or a slave; no matter whether educated or ignorant; no matter whether clothed in purple or in rags - riding in state or laid at the gate of a rich man full of sores, the invitation is freely made to all to come and be saved. With what more appropriate truth could a revelation from heaven be closed? -- Albert Barnes

D. The Carnal Mind Focuses on the _____ rather than the solution.

The Word of God says, **Heb 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Heb 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In other words Jesus wrote the first page of the first chapter of our lives and He is the one who will write the last page of the last chapter of our lives.

E. The Carnal Mind focuses on the natural rather than the Spiritual.

The Word of God says, **Pro 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

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F. The Carnal Mind focuses on what can't be done rather than what can be done.

The Word of God says, Phi 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

#3. Who is Carnal minded or who can be carnal minded?

A. Sinners: _____ Carnal.

We know that sinners or those that are unregenerate are carnal because it is a natural state of a man.

You are not a sinner because you commit sin. You commit sin because you are a sinner.

As someone who is not saved the only thought processes we have is “what will make me feel good” , and “how will this affect my appetites or desires.”

As a sinner we put more stock into what can be _____ and _____ rather than what is truth.

We feel like if it can't physically be done than it can't be done. If there is nothing we can do about it and we can't find anyone else that can do any better than it is a hopeless case.

Sinners are carnal because it is natural. It is a result of the fall.

B. Christians: Carnal by _____.

Let me try to explain what I mean by “Carnal by Choice.”

1Jo 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

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1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

When it talks about committing sin what it means is a continual sin or the way we lived before we were saved. Christians can still commit _____ of sin but a Christian can no longer _____ in sin or perpetual sin.

The only way this can happen is if we yield our bodies to the old appetites of the flesh again.

An example of this is when our anger gets out of control or we allow ourselves to become jealous or bitter. I'm not saying that these feelings are not hard to fight but we do have a choice whether we yield ourselves to them or not.

We will get angry, and jealousy or envy will try to attach itself to us from time to time but it is up to us to shake those carnal feelings and influences off.

The crux of the Scripture and Spirit led life is this: Christ did not sin in His body therefore He will not sin in yours. When carnal desires take over and are acted upon it is because we have _____ to them.

Don't forget, It is not a sin to be tempted for Christ was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin. Sin is born when temptation is yielded to.

Rom 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Rom 6:13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

The choice is ours.

So, Christians may be carnal; when the lower side of their being is dominant and not the spirit, they fall into sins of envy and strife.

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The Apostle Paul spoke to the Corinthian Church about being carnal. He did not say that they were not Christians but simply that they were carnal. They were looking at things through natural eyes and the eyes of man rather than _____ or the eyes of God.

1Co 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

1Co 3:2 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.

1Co 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1Co 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

1Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

#4. What does it mean to be a Carnal Christian?

Being carnal as a Christian is _____ the old mind set to rule. It doesn't rule all of the time but seems to only rule in us when we face things that are difficult to be understood or trials that are hard to take because we see no way out of them. However it can also rear it's ugly head when we allow the old man of sin back on the throne of our hearts through strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, and such things that are common with the human nature.

Part of being a carnal Christian is being _____ in the faith.

Paul said, **1Co 13:11** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

We must grow in our knowledge, experience, and trust in God just like we grow physically and mentally in this world.

When as Christians we face what we term as an incurable disease we tend to lose hope.

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If we are not careful we will let the carnal mindset rule and we will live defeated and looking at the situation as it is just a matter of time because there is no cure.

There are sicknesses that have no earthly cure that man has come up with, but we do know one who can heal any sickness or disease.

Jer 32:27 Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Psa 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Psa 103:3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

We know that God can heal any disease but we also know that He doesn't always choose to heal. When God chooses not to heal someone that is when we must simply trust in the sovereignty of God or in the fact that He knows what He is doing and He knows what is best.

I'm not saying that we walk around living in denial or that when we are injured or sick that we don't seek medical attention.

I'm not saying that when we get discouraged we are in sin or that we have lost faith and God is displeased with us.

What I am saying though is that we must make a _____ effort to think differently now.

#5 Combating or fighting the Carnal Mindset as a Christian.

A. Change the way you think or view life.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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The mind is the acting ruling part of us; so that the renewing of the mind is the renewing of the whole man, for out of it are the *issues of life*, Pro 4:23. --
Matthew Henry

Pro 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

When the Scriptures talk about the heart what it is referring to is the mind. The Hebrew word literally means “the inner man, mind, will, heart, understanding.”

In other words it is our mindset or our understanding that _____ the issues of life or the things that we put confidence in.

When it talks about the issues of life the thought or picture here is of a heart and it’s arteries. The heart pumps the life sustaining blood but it is the arteries that carry the blood to all the other parts of the body.

Our mind is the heart and what flows from it _____ all the other parts of our body.

B. We must make a conscious effort to put on the new man.

Though the new man be created of God, yet we must put it on (Eph 4:24), and be pressing forward towards perfection.

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

How is this done?

We must be submitted unto God.

Changing the way we think and view things is up to _____. We can’t do it on our own it is a work of the Spirit of God but it will never get done if we are not submitted unto God.

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Jam 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit - to God - Continue to bow to all his decisions, and to all his dispensations.

Resist the devil - He cannot conquer you if you continue to resist. Strong as he is, God never permits him to conquer the man who continues to resist him; he cannot force the human will. He who, in the terrible name of Jesus, opposes even the devil himself, is sure to have a speedy and glorious conquest. He flees from that name, and from his conquering blood.

-- Adam Clarke

Conclusion:

Carnality and the Carnal mind is something we all have to fight. Fighting the old thought patterns and life is the way of the Christian. Being Carnal is simply viewing things through human eyes. We believe what we see. Brother Taylor said one time that as Christians we need to know what we believe, but we also need to believe what we know. In other words we know God can do anything and that He has everything under control. Let's begin to live like we believe it.