

BABES IN CHRIST

I COR. 3:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Paul was hindered in his communication with Corinthians.
 - 1. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as spiritual."
 - 2. As I would to healthy Christians.

- B. They were deprived of a mature adult instruction and were corrected as "infants."
 - 1. "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat."
 - 2. "I gave you milk to drink, not meat to eat."

- C. They were showing no signs of growth.
 - 1. "for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet are ye now able."
 - 2. You weren't able, you aren't able.

I. THE FACT OF SPIRITUAL INFANCY.

- A. "unto babes in Christ."
 - 1. babes = nepios - a baby without the power of speech, an infant, a minor.
 - 2. You were mere infants in the faith.

- B. Other Biblical references.
 - 1. Heb. 5:13. same.
 - 2. I Peter 2:2 "from the womb - new born - just born"

- C. If a fact then, its a fact now.
 - 1. Born of Spirit.
 - 2. Give people time to grow.
 - 3. Expect people to grow.

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPIRITUAL INFANT.

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- A. Carnal mind.
 - 1. v1.
 - 2. carnal = flesh, distinctive of the flesh.
 - 3. Thinking like the world thinks.

- B. Carnal appetite, and infantile digestive tract.
 - 1. v2.
 - 2. Heb. 5:12-14.

- C. Carnal acts, v3,4. Seven acts are listed.
 - 1. envying = zelos - heart burning, jealousy!
 - 2. strife = eris - rivalry, quarreling.
 - 3. divisions = dichossasia - dissension, discord.
 - 4. Peter's thoughts. I Peter 2:1-3.
 - a. malice - every form of evil, evil habit.
 - b. guile - a bait for fish, hence any cunning contrivance, crafty, deceiving, wile.
 - c. hypocrisies = playing a part, on stage, acting out a part, looking hurt.
 - d. evil speaking = slander, defame, revile.

- D. Carnal walk. v3.
 - 1. "walk as men."
 - 2. Your behaviour is the same as the worlds.

- E. Carnal speech. v4.
 - 1. "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos;"
 - 2. "Are ye not carnal?"

III. SPIRITUAL INFANCY CHARACTERIZED BY AN EMPHASIS ON MEN.

V5-7

- A. Who are these men? v5.
 - 1. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos?"
 - 2. Stop and consider these men!
 - 3. They are not your Saviour.

4. Men are instruments of God, they are not gods.

C. The role of the minister. v6.

1. planted = to plant, esp. of trees.

a. As in setting out an orchard.

2. watered = of plants, to water, irrigate.

a. It is not so much the life of the plant but fruit from it.

D. The place for praise. v7.

1. The planter is not anything.

a. He doesn't create fruit.

2. The irrigator isn't anything.

a. He doesn't create fruit.

3. "but God that giveth the increase."

a. increase = growth, enlargement.

E. God still gives the increase.

1. Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

2. "to set, to place or lay towards or in addition to; to put one thing to another."