

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST

The “spirit” of a natural man is the soul. The Apostle Paul tells us, *“The first man Adam was made a living soul”* I Corinthians 15:45, and then he reminds us *“As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy...”* I Corinthians 15:48. We are all born into this world as *“living souls.”* As such, we were earthy, carnal, and the children of Adam.

Unlike Adam, Jesus Christ was not merely a living soul. The Bible tells us he *“was made a quickening spirit.”* I Corinthians 15:45. This is important to understand because the Apostle builds on this truth, saying, *“...as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.”* I Corinthians 15:48. Just as Christ is, a child of God is inherently more than what Adam was.

Those who have been born of God’s Spirit are no longer just *“living souls.”* Because they have been born of God’s Spirit, they are now *“spirit”* beings. Jesus spoke about this in absolute terms, saying *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* John 3:6. No one is “spirit” as Christ is “spirit” without first being born of God’s Spirit.

For decades we have been taught that we are in the process of *“being born again.”* If that is the

case, you are not yet a child of God. Perhaps we could call it a process when God's Spirit begins to convict a sinner and draw them to Christ. Maybe we can say the process continues when saving faith begins to arise in their hearts at hearing the truth of the gospel. But, when "*the Spirit of Christ*" comes into a person, the process of being "*born again*" is complete. From that moment, they are a "*spirit*," and as a newborn child of God they begin to "grow" in the things of Christ. The redeemed are not "becoming the children of God." The Apostle John says, "*Beloved, now are we the sons of God...*" 1 John 3:2.

Even the mind of God's children is different. The child of God has been given a "spiritual mind." The Bible tells us that those who have "*learned Christ*," heard from Christ that you must be "*renewed in the spirit of your mind.*" Ephesians 4:23. If the "*spirit of your mind*" is not made new, all the "spiritual" teaching in the world will do nothing for you.

The mind of a natural man is carnal. The Bible says, "*the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*" Romans 8:7. Again, Paul tells us, "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" 1 Corinthians 2:14. Without having received a "spiritual mind" a person does not have the ability to receive the things of the Spirit of God.

When the Bible speaks of "*spiritual*" or "*carnal*" we usually think of those who are mature in the

Lord compared to those who are not. But actually, the word *“spiritual”* speaks of those who are *“spirit”* because they are born of God’s Spirit, whereas *“carnal”* speaks of the unregenerate person. A *“carnal Christian”* is someone who professes to have been born of God, but they appear to be just like an unregenerate man.

Paul faced this issue when writing concerning the problems in the Corinthian church. He said, *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.”* I Corinthians 3:1. The Apostle almost seems unsure as to whether many of these were just unregenerate, or they were like infants who had an unhealthy birth and never left the incubator. This is confirmed two verses later when he says, *“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, **are ye not carnal, and walk as men?**”* I Corinthians 3:3. *“Carnal”* describes the condition of the unregenerate person. Yet Paul told these at Corinth, *“You are walking like carnal men walk!”* Something was very wrong!

If you are born of God, the Apostle Paul includes you when he said, *“But we have the mind of Christ.”* I Corinthians 2:16. You are a *“spiritual”* creation,” and he tells us *“he that is spiritual judgeth (discerns) all things...”* I Corinthians 2:15. You can discern, or understand, the things of God which the unregenerate person can never receive. Every child of God who gives themselves to seek God in his word and prayer will abound in heavenly wisdom and spiritual understanding.

God gave each of us this gift when He gave us
“the mind of Christ.”