



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

SIGNS OF MATURITY

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

The gospel life is a constantly maturing life; we should be chewing on biblical meat as we grow, doing greater things for the Lord.

Many think that this is purely the work a pastor should do, but it is clearly not just that.

- Some of the problems in virtually every church come from this one issue: What really is *“the work of the ministry”*?
- We get some insight from **Ephesians 4:11-16**.

FIRST STEP: STOP BEING BABIES

Biblical discipleship is a process of spiritual growth from an infant at salvation to a sanctified adult.

- Just like children picking their favorite teacher based on who let them throw paper airplanes in class
 - They were allowing themselves to foolishly be divided into factions regarding which preacher they liked better; they were acting like babies!
- A consistent “spiritual growth pattern” should be visible in every child of God; we grow up!

MILK OR MEAT

We should not be spiritual frogs, either. There are not three separate stages in spiritual life—worship, waiting, and work.

- We should be grasping, growing, and going, not forgetting, sitting, and knitting, spiritually anyway. If you knit for a living or for Jesus, by all means, knit away. 😊 **Hebrews 5:12** and **1 Peter 2:1-2**
- Paul had to teach them according to their spiritual capacity, which was not very deep or wide!

THEY WERE ON THE CARNAL DIET

Their jealousy, bickering, and quarreling proved they were walking in the flesh.

- It is not difficult to determine a believer's spiritual maturity, or immaturity, if you discover what kind of "diet" he or she enjoys—carnal or spiritual.
- The mature Christian practices love and seeks to get along with others. **Ephesians 4:1-6**
- Mature Christians use their gifts as tools to build with . . . loving, tending, and feeding. **John 21:15-17**

GOD'S WORK IS TEAMWORK v. 4-7

Neither Paul nor Apollos wanted people to follow them blindly in some style or method of ministry.

- We should not seek the praise that comes from people, but instead seek approval from God.
- Paul founded the church in Corinth, then Apollos had built on that foundation; but the church was God's.
- Paul, Apollos, Peter, every pastor, teacher, preacher, or missionary of the gospel is nothing more than God's instrument. ***God alone brings the seed to fruition.***

THE MATURE FOCUS ON GOD

- Every pastor's job is simply to equip the church for all the work that God has for us to do together.
- We are all collectively better when each of us is individually fully mature and using 100% of what we have for the Lord!
- Each servant of God has varying functions according to the gifts that God has given to the person, but for the collective benefit of the entire body.

LET'S MATURE TOGETHER AND FOCUS ON GOD.