

YOUR OPERATING SOFTWARE: SPIRIT OR FLESH?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1. The Fleshly Christian Lacks Maturity (1a)

1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh,

2. The Fleshly Christian Consumes Milk (1b-2, cf. Heb 5:12-14)

1b as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

3. The Fleshly Christian Is Motionless (3a)

3a for you are still of the flesh.

4. The Fleshly Christian Is Malicious (3b)

3b For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

Spiritual Manifestation	Fleshly Manifestation
Love: placing other's spiritual good ahead of his own desires	Indifference and hatred
Joy: theistic optimism toward life	Depression
Peace: divine tranquility	Strife and severe stress
Longsuffering: abiding under difficult circumstances	Retaliation, escapism
Gentleness: sweet kindness toward others	Hostility, rage
Goodness: generosity toward those in need	Selfish ambition, miserliness
Faith: confidence in God that leads to faithfulness	Personal autonomy
Meekness: strength under control	Fits of rage
Temperance: self control	Laziness, gluttony, drunkenness, immorality

Material adapted from Pettegrew, *The New Covenant Ministry Of The Holy Spirit*, pp. 207-208, Kregel Publications, 2001

5. The Fleshly Christian Is Marginalized (4)

4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

Conclusion: How To Have Victory Over The Flesh

1. Change Your Operating System
 - The Spirit Supplies The Power For Our Spiritual Walk (Gal 5:16)
 - The Spirit Supplies The Pattern For Our Spiritual Walk (Gal 5:25)
2. Feed The Spirit Instead Of The Flesh (Gal 5:17)
3. Focus On A Relationship With The Spirit, Not Rules To Achieve Righteousness (Gal 5:17-18)
4. Be Honest About Your Struggle With The Flesh (Rom 7:17-19)
5. Consider Your Flesh Crucified With Christ
 - Positionally: Put Your Life In Christ By Identifying With Christ's Death (Gal 2:20; 5:24)
 - Practically: Put Your Flesh To Death By Counting The Passions And Desires Of The Flesh As Dead (Rom 6:11-14; 8:13; Col 3:5)
6. Learn To Hate Sin (Gal 5 immorality 19, idolatry 20, ill will 20-21, ideology 21)