

Spiritual Declension (1 Cor 3:1-9)

- The Christian life is a life lived by faith, it is contrary to everything around us
- It is contrary to everything natural within us, this is the yoke of Jesus
- The Christian life is not complicated but neither is it easy because of our flesh
- Our life is rightly called the “fight of faith” we fight the flesh, world & Devil
- Worldliness: not the typically offenders, marked by unbelief & pragmatism

I. The Root of Division: The Flesh (3:1-3a)

- Paul challenges Corinthians for their worldly wisdom: immaturity in the faith
- Corinthians were marked by a party spirit, which was pragmatic and carnal
- Paul couldn't address them as spiritual, but fleshly and worldly
- Positionally: Christians are spiritual, Practically: can be fleshly & unspiritual
- Paul rebukes them referring to them as infants, as babes in Christ (Heb 5:13)
- After many years of teaching: Corinthians still could not handle meat (3-5a)
- Unbelief, self-centeredness, pride: believers remain immature in the body
- Jealousy and strife are sure signs of flesh in the body and will destroy unity
- **Corinthian party spirit**: immature carnal people coalesce behind one leader
- Paul asks the rhetorical question at the end of v.4 “are you not carnal”

II. The Remedy for Division: Glorifying God (3:5-9)

- Remedy: turning away from ourselves & looking to God through Jesus Christ
- Vs 5 “who then is Paul, Apollos...but ministers through whom you believed
- ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave increase” They were only servants
- God makes use of all of His servants but they are servants that God gives
- God blesses faithfulness, the one who sows and the one who waters are one

2 Tim 2: 10; 1 Cor 15: 58