

Carnal Christians – Introduction

Recently I saw a sign that said, “Wanted – clean fill dirt.” I thought, those words don’t go together. How can you get clean dirt?

Since pasturing, counseling, and traveling in a fulltime evangelistic ministry, I have talked with people whose ideas are like that sign. Their lives are full of impure mixtures. Sometimes they are referred to as “carnal Christians.”

A carnal person’s life is governed by bodily pleasures and appetites. But a person who commits his life to Jesus Christ should be able to say, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” Galatians 2:20.

To suggest that a person can be both Christian and carnal is not only incorrect but impossible. The following situations have actually happened:

- A young woman told me that God led her to sleep with her boyfriend to deepen their love relationship. She said, “Of course, we have prayer and Bible study first.”
- A man responded to my question, “Are you a Christian?” with this answer – “Well, sort of.” I replied, “Sort of? Did Christ ‘sort of’ die for you?”
- A girl came to the altar one night boldly proclaiming her love for God. “Yes, I love God, but I hate my parents,” she later said.

An impure mixture of thoughts has invaded the church. We mix things that cannot be mixed. Oddly enough, Scripture tells us this discord is the prelude to the last days. Daniel 2:41-43 speaks of the impure mixture of “iron mixed with miry clay.” The passage refers to a kingdom that is partly strong and partly broken.

Daniel 2:44 says, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Hallelujah! That is what we a Christians are believing God for – a pure and strong kingdom.

The purpose of this book is to help those who have entertained the idea that it is possible to follow Christ but continue to live a carnal lifestyle. I pray that, as you read, God will help you to uproot and destroy this idea. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” II Corinthians 5:17.

Can a person be both carnal and Christlike? “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” Romans 8:6-7.

I believe it is impossible to follow both Christ and your own sensual desires. God has told us that “through the Spirit” we might “mortify the deeds of the body” Romans 8:13.

It is possible to live your life in a way pleasing to God, and the following pages will tell you how.

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