

## ONE OF THREE KINDS

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** We are always sorting people out and assigning them into our own categories such as: upper class, middle class, lower class, professionals, management, skilled, common laborers, etc. We do! Really we do! We have different "levels" of friends, those we admire and wish we could be more like, those we like to be with, those we call once in a while, those we seldom are around and so on. The Bible also sorts people out but only into three groups: the natural, the spiritual and the carnal. Which group are you in? Your friends?, Your family members?

### I. THERE IS THE NATURAL PERSON

1. There are those who "do what comes naturally." Does what he/she is born to do.
  - Everyone is born as a natural person, equipped to live in this world with the skills and abilities to survive and these don't have to be learned. They are innate.
  - Everyone is born with a human body and inside it is a sin nature. Therefore when the body dies, the soul (spirit) also dies unless he/she becomes a Christian.
2. God says that the natural person has nothing good inside of him/her and are by nature children of wrath.
  - The natural person is born blind to spiritual things and rejects such things as foolishness.
  - The natural person just doesn't welcome spiritual things, has no appreciation for them.
    - "...*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness...*" *1 Corinthians 1:18*)
  - The natural person doesn't understand anything Jesus came to do and doesn't see why Christians make such a big thing about Jesus and their Church.
  - Remember Nicodemus and Jesus' conversation? Nicodemus "just couldn't see..."
3. The world is full of natural people, blind to spiritual things and for them to experience peace with God, they must be born again.

### II. THERE IS THE SPIRITUAL PERSON

1. The spiritual person has been "born twice." Once physically, of course, then spiritually, thus making him/her alive to God.
  - The spiritual person does spiritual things. (*1 Corinthians 2:12-13*).
  - The Holy Spirit indwells the spiritual person and reveals/teaches him/her spiritual truths which the natural person cannot understand nor is even interested in.
2. An outstanding characteristic of a spiritual person is that he/she lives by the Spirit.
  - Christians are not people who have decided to try to live better, they are people who have been radically changed inside by their new birth - God actually lives inside of them.
  - Christians don't slowly emerge by trying to change their lives, they are instantly changed by Grace.
    - It is not reforming the old natural person, but an actual re-birth, being born into a new life.
    - The spiritual person lives by the Holy Spirit.
3. The spiritual person learns from the Holy Spirit who indwells, lives within that person.
  - The Holy Spirit is like a light that lights up the spiritual person's mind to the things of God and therefore he/she can understand and apply the Word of God to his/her life.
4. The spiritual person has a different value system, he/she sees things differently, seeing things as Jesus would see them, he/she stands out from the rest of the world as being different, for he/she is indeed different for he/she is alive to God and dead to sin.

### III. THERE IS THE CARNAL PERSON

1. There is a very unusual kind of person, for this person started out like any other human being, born of a woman, has all the human nature tendencies and of course has the sin nature but also has become a spiritual person by believing in Jesus Christ, he/she has been born into the family of God, indwelt with God's spirit but stops there, he/she doesn't follow the Holy Spirit's leadership and is not a mature spiritual person. He/she hasn't changed spiritually. That kind of person God calls "carnal."
2. The carnal person lives a spiritually defeated life. There are no spiritual victories, he/she does not have the ability to do what a mature Christian can do - really is just a baby.
  - He/she can't walk, war or work spiritually.
  - How many do you personally know who have attended church services for years but are still just spiritual babies. They have to be treated like a baby and they act/react like a baby.
  - Sadly Churches are filled with too many who fit this description.
3. The carnal person is also very dependent.
  - He/she has to be "spoon fed" in regard to spiritual matters.
  - He/she can't teach or do anything spiritual for him/herself. He/she has to be taught and cannot be depended upon to do anything important within the Church.
4. The carnal person is divisive. *1 Corinthians 3:3-7*
  - The Corinthian church was dividing over little things, like children fussing over their toys.
    - They were willing to split the church over childish, immature issues like who was the best teacher.
  - Divisive Christians are defeated, dependent and need to get on to being mature in Christ.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Every human being is born a "natural" person. He/she is equipped to live in the world with his/her innate, inborn human nature which is also called the old sin nature, for part of the human nature is the automatic, natural act of sinning. In such a state, the person cannot understand and is really not interested in spiritual things and thus is separated from God and unless there is a change to a spiritual nature, he/she will die eternally separated from God and spend eternity in hell.
2. There are those who, being born a "natural" person do, however make a change and become "spiritual" people. They are those who listened to the Word of God, believed the Word of God, did what the Word of God said and trusted in Jesus Christ, God's Son, then were indwelt with the presence of God, the Holy Spirit, and allowed the Spirit to guide them into living and doing as God wanted. Thus they have the sin nature (human nature) still within them, but have been given a second nature, the Spiritual nature. Thus they are spiritual people.
3. There are those who, like the spiritual people, were born as "natural" people, also believed God's Word, were born into God's family, indwelt with God's Spirit, received their new spiritual nature, BUT stopped at that point. They have never allowed the Holy Spirit control of their lives and are still living by their human nature's ways. They are immature spiritually and contribute absolutely nothing to the Kingdom of God and are more like babies and children than grown adults. They don't study God's Word, they don't pray very often, if at all, they are trouble makers often within the Church.
4. The natural person lives according to his/her senses. The spiritual person lives according to the Spirit. The carnal person lives in confusion over the other two.
5. So, which of the three kinds of people are you? In God's eyes?