

ONE OUT OF THREE, WHICH ARE YOU?

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1

Introduction: We are always putting people into categories such as upper class, middle class, lower class, professionals, management, common laborers, not to mention the different races of people which we also sort out by color or some "nickname" for their particular trait. The Bible also categorized people: natural, spiritual and carnal. Every human being is in one of the three categories God has named. Our of the three, which are you?

I. FIRST THERE IS THE "NATURAL" PERSON

1. A natural person does "what comes naturally."
 - He/she is born into this world and doesn't have to be taught to do certain things, they just come naturally, by instinct.
 - He/she comes into the world fully equipped to live in this world.
2. The Bible says that the "natural" person is born blind to the spiritual world and automatically rejects the things of God.
 - The natural person cannot understand spiritual things nor welcomes them.
 - Even when attending a Church service, the natural person doesn't understand the things of God or the big thing about "Jesus."
 - The natural person doesn't see anything impressing about Christian things at all.
3. The natural person just cannot sense God in any way.
 - Remember Nicodemus, he had a problem understanding why or how a person could be born again.
 - The natural person knows only what he/she was born with, the ways of the world.
 - Unknowing to the natural person, however, he/she does have an inbuilt capacity to know God.
 - The natural person will never be inwardly satisfied until he/she knows God and the Lord Jesus.

II. SECONDLY, THERE IS THE "SPIRITUAL" PERSON

1. The spiritual person has been born physically, then spiritually, thus born twice.
 - The spiritual person has been made alive to God and does supernatural things.
 - The spiritual person understands spiritual things.
2. The spiritual person has been indwelt with God's Holy Spirit and did not just decide to live better.
 - The spiritual person is guided by the Holy Spirit and therefore lives his/her life thusly.
 - The spiritual person was wasn't slowly changed, but was changed instantly.
3. The spiritual person learns from the Holy Spirit.
 - The natural person cannot grasp, receive or understand the things of God, but the spiritual does as he/she is taught, guided by the Holy Spirit and therefore can apply what he/she learns to his/her life.

4. The spiritual person has a different value system.
 - He/she sees things differently as he/she sees things as Jesus sees things.
 - He/she sees the world as God sees it.
 - The natural person cannot understand the terms of sin, salvation, eternal life, heaven and hell.

III. THE THIRD KIND OF PERSON IS THE CARNAL PERSON

1. The carnal person is one who is saved, but has not completely changed to the spiritual value system.
2. The carnal person is not living the victorious life yet for he/she is still in spiritual infancy.
 - Paul called the carnal person a "baby" in Christ, a spiritual baby.
 - We have all seen a physically mature, grown person but whose mind never developed fully and although he/she is grown physically, he/she is still a small child mentally. There are Christians who are like these immature, but fully grown children.
3. The carnal person is very dependent upon mature Christians.
 - He/she cannot understand very much of the scriptures and has to have everything explained to the smallest detail.
 - He/she cannot teach or serve but has to be taught and served.
4. The carnal person often causes problems within his/her Church.
 - The carnal person complains about trifles, like a child arguing over toys.
 - Carnal Christians usually are the cause for Church splits and factions.
 - The carnal person is defeated, dependent and divisive and needs to get on the road to maturity.

CONCLUSION:

1. The natural person is not a Christian. He/she lives as the world lives and has no sense of spiritual matters and no interest in spiritual things.
2. The spiritual person is a Christian. He/she lives as the Holy Spirit guides and is positive for the things of the Lord.
3. The carnal person is a Christian, but he/she is living two lives and neither to the fullest.
4. So, which are you? Saved? Saved but not living as you should be? Or unsaved?