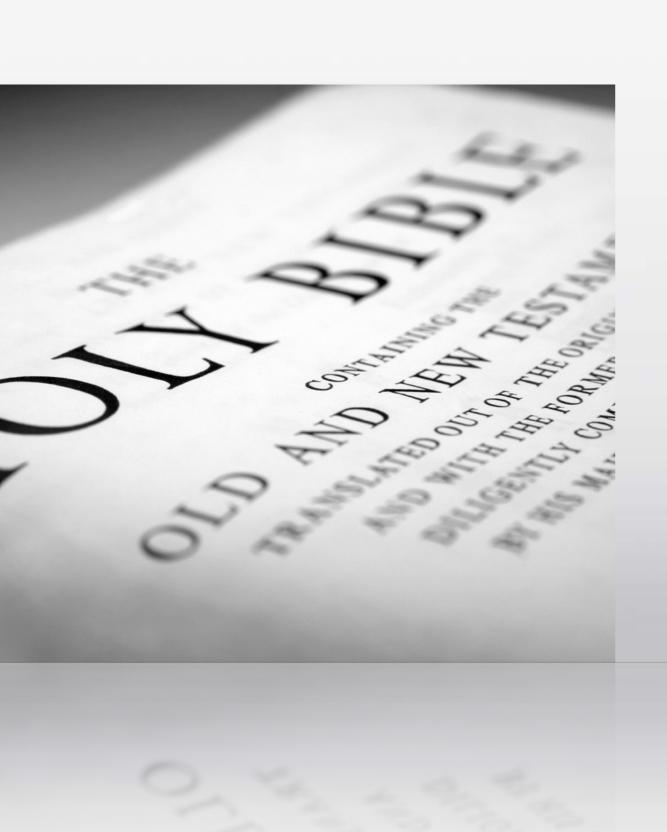
Spiritual Maturity Defined

Bruce Baker, Pastor

Washington County Bible Church





Three important contrasts:



Three important contrasts:

Teachers and those Needing to be Taught.



Three important contrasts:

Teachers and those Needing to be Taught.

Milk and Meat.



Three important contrasts:

Teachers and those Needing to be Taught.

Milk and Meat.

Infant and Mature.

Teachers & Students



Teachers & Students



Teachers are able to read the Bible and understand the practical implications of Scripture without the help of others.

Teachers & Students



Teachers are able to read the Bible and understand the practical implications of Scripture without the help of others.

Those Needing Teaching cannot understand the practical ramifications of the Bible without the help of others.

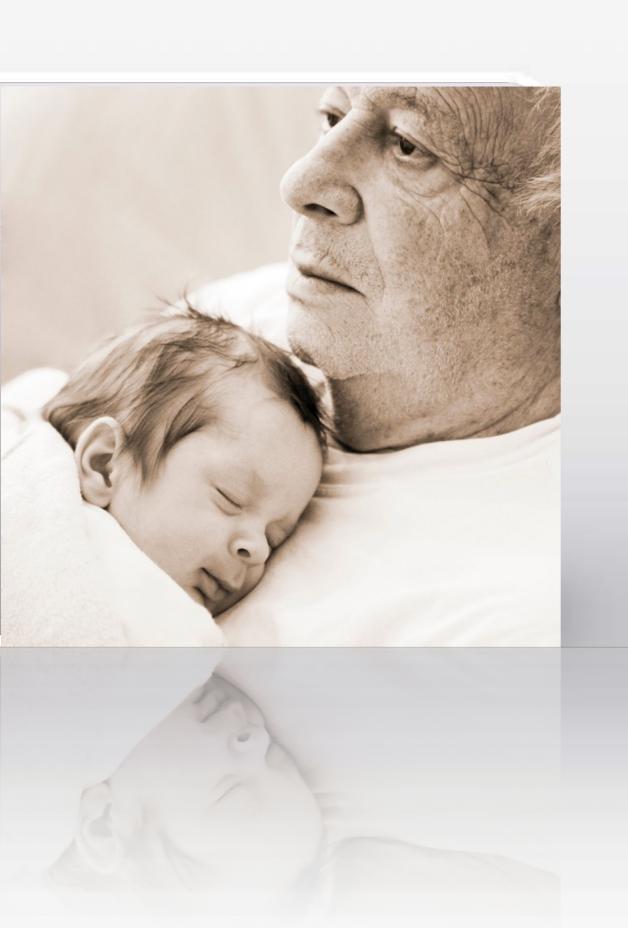


Milk & Meat



Milk & Meat

The mature believer will venture beyond a mere surface understanding and delve deep into God's word, understanding those things that are more difficult to understand or accept.



Infant & Mature



Infant & Mature

The primary difference between the infant and the mature is their ability to distinguish, in practical terms, what is right and wrong in a given situation.

The spiritually mature are those who, through the power of the Holy Spirit,

(1) understand God's Word well enough and

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- (2) have consistently put its truths into practice long enough that

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- (2) have consistently put its truths into practice long enough that
- (3) they are capable of distinguishing good from evil in practical circumstances and
- (4) are competent in teaching others to do the same.



1 Cor 2:1-3:4



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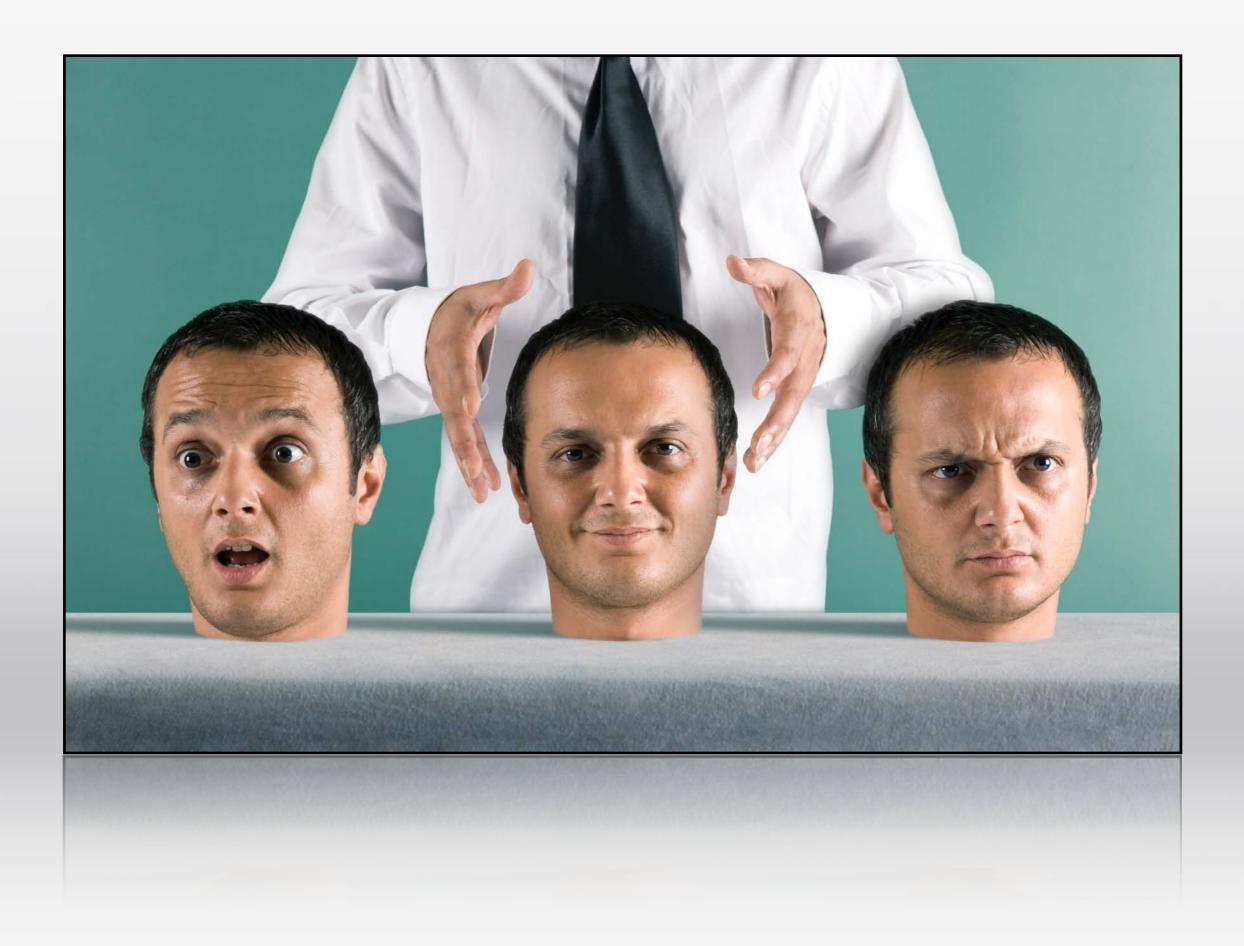
Three Types of People

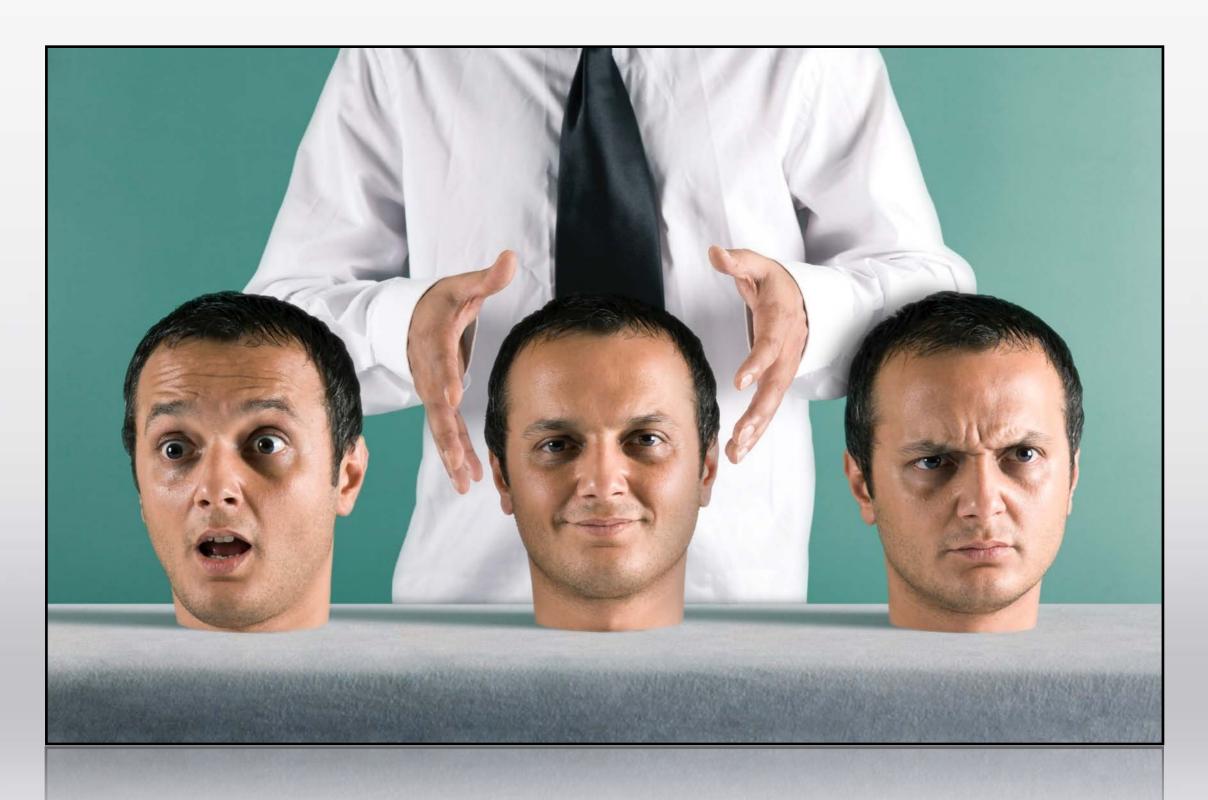


1 Cor 2:1-3:4

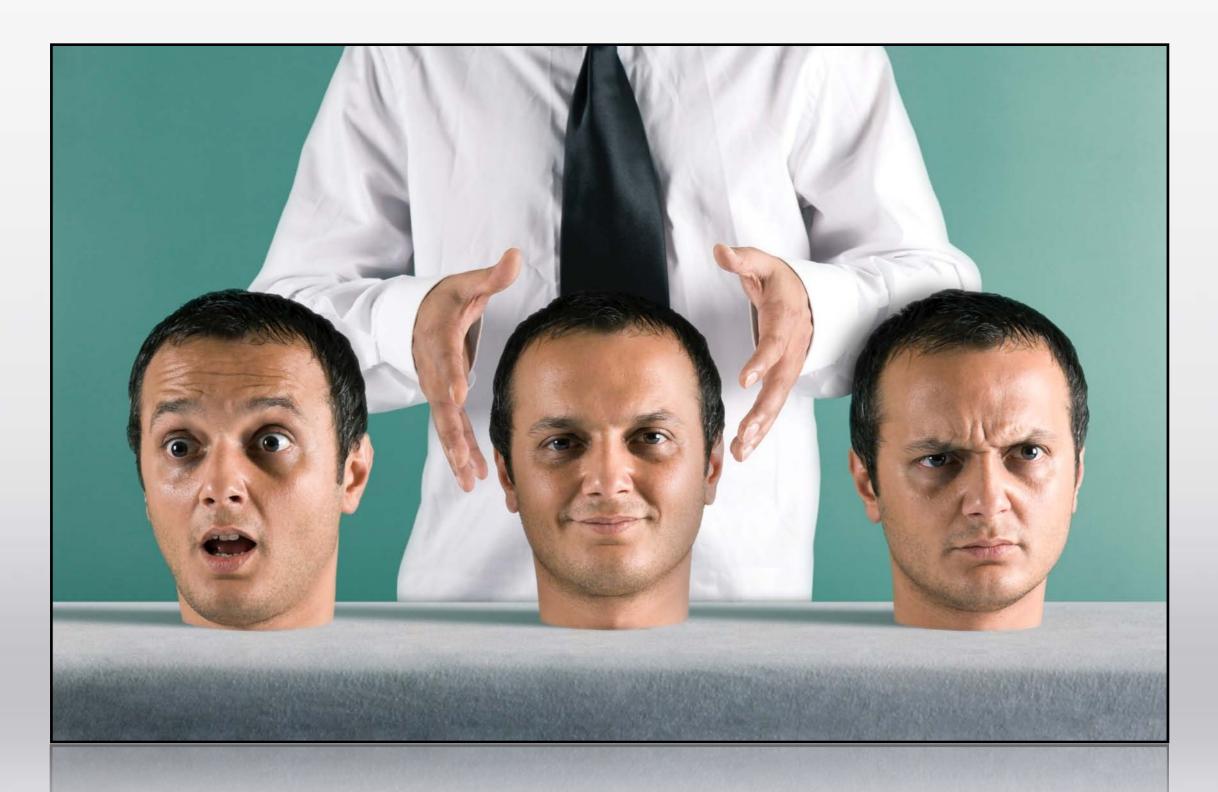
Three Types of People

Relationship to the Spirit is the deciding factor



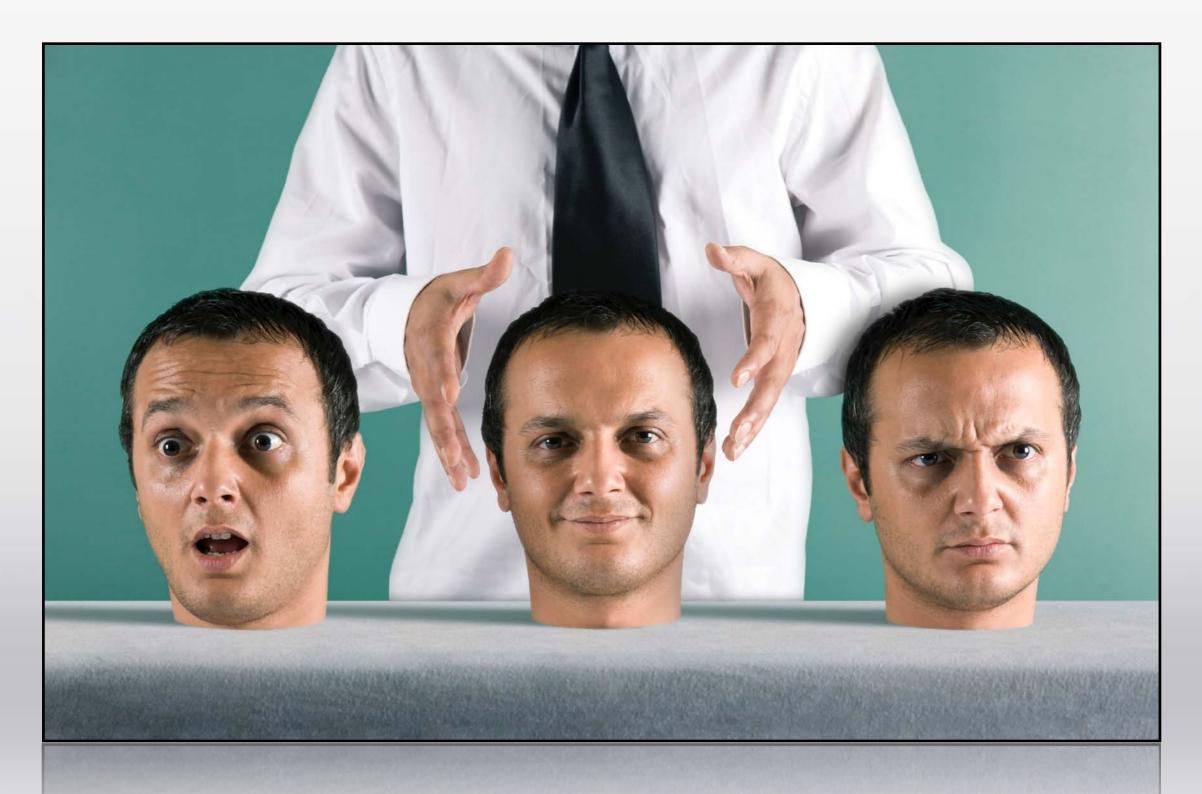


Natural



Carnal

Natural



Carnal

Spiritual

Natural





Doesn't have the Spirit



Doesn't have the Spirit

Relies on Five Senses & Reason



Doesn't have the Spirit

Relies on Five Senses & Reason

Total Inability to Know the Mind of God



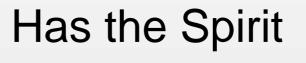
Doesn't have the Spirit

Relies on Five Senses & Reason

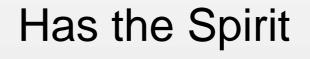
Total Inability to Know the Mind of God

Result = **NEVER** knows right from wrong / good from evil





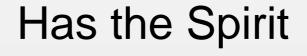




Carnal = Fleshy





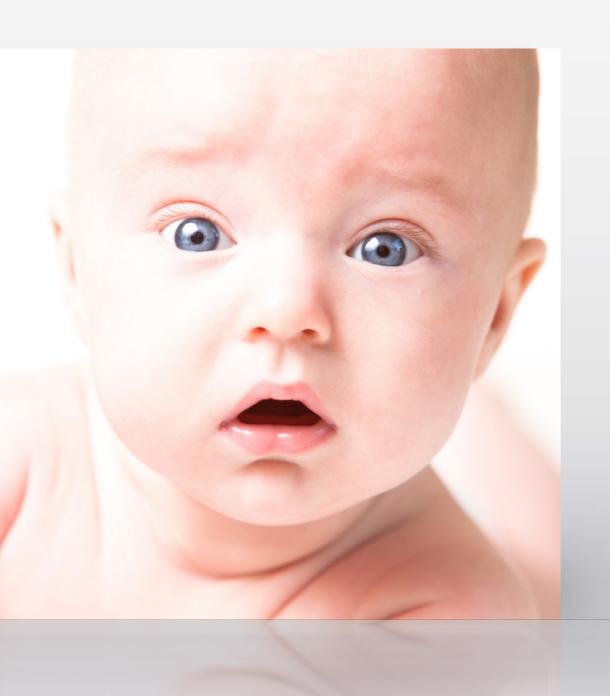


Carnal = Fleshy

Everyone Begins Carnal







Has the Spirit

Carnal = Fleshy

Everyone Begins Carnal

Carnal ≠ Sinful



Has the Spirit

Carnal = Fleshy

Everyone Begins Carnal

Carnal ≠ Sinful

Still Relies on Five Senses & Reason



Old Father William

And yet you incessantly stand on your head--

Do you think, at your age, it is right?"



Carnal Can Be Spiritual!

Being Spiritual = Being Rightly Related to the Spirit

From the moment of the New Birth a believer may walk in the Spirit



The Spiritual Man



The Spiritual Man

Relies on the Spirit for knowledge of right and wrong / good and evil



The Spiritual Man

Relies on the Spirit for knowledge of right and wrong / good and evil

Has the ability to teach others

Being a Christian is being rightly related to Christ

Being Spiritual is being rightly related to the Spirit

Questions?

