

The Carnal Mind

A. Carnal Mind

1. The carnal mind is the mind of the flesh.
2. It means walking according to reasoning dictated by what your five senses (see, hear, touch, smell, feel) are telling you.
3. Your senses are not reliable guides, because they are often contradicting what the Word of God says.
4. Carnal or flesh is the Greek word "sarx" (4561 - Greek) meaning external, human nature, body.
5. Romans 8:6, 7 gives more insight about the carnal mind.
 - a. The carnal mind is death (verse 6).
 - b. The carnal mind is enmity (hostility, hatred) against God; it **is not** subject to the law of God nor **can it be** (verse 7).
6. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 gives additional understanding of the meaning of carnal.
 - a. If you are carnal, you are not spiritually mature, but you are a babe in Christ (verse 1)
 - b. Carnal people are not able to receive solid food, but only milk (verse 2).
 1. Hebrews 5:13 tells us that those who partake of only milk are *unskilled* in the word of righteousness, because they are babes.
 2. 1 Peter 2:2 says "As **newborn babes**, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." When we are first born again, we are like newborn babies, who can only tolerate milk. Likewise in the Spirit, when we are new in the things of the Lord, we start out with the milk of the Word.

But notice the last three words of that verse – *may grow thereby*. The milk is intended to start you growing. We are not supposed to remain babies, but rather we are to **grow up in all things into Him, Who is the head - Christ** (Ephesians 4:15) and become His flesh body in the earth.

8. c. Carnal people walk in envy, strife, and division, behaving like mere men (walking according to man) (verse 3).
9. 2 Corinthians 10:4: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."
 - a. Our weapons of warfare are **not** carnal (of the flesh).
 - b. Our weapons **are mighty** through God for pulling down strongholds.
 - c. 1 Timothy 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith." This is the **ONLY** fight a Christian ever has! Our fight is **NOT** with the devil. He has already been defeated.

Colossians 2:15: "And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." 1 John 3:8: "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For **this purpose** the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

Hebrews 2:14,15: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

d. What **is** the good fight of faith?

1. It is understanding and receiving our position in Christ.
2. It is submitting to God and resisting the devil. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)
 - a. Submit to God. He is your Father; yield to His Spirit.
 - b. Resist the devil. 1 Peter 5:9 says to resist the devil steadfast in the faith.

1. In the faith - in our position in Him using His faith.

2. Resist him with the Word of God. Jesus is our example in Luke 4:1-13 and Matthew 4:1-11. These scriptures refer to Jesus in the wilderness and being tempted by the devil. He resisted him by saying what was written in the Word of God.

10. Romans 8:8 "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
 - a. The word please means to be agreeable with. When we walk in the flesh, we cannot be in agreement with God and His Word. Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"
11. Romans 8:9: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you."
 - a. If you have accepted Christ, then you are born again and God's Word says you are not in the flesh. God says you are in the Spirit if His Spirit dwells in you.
 - b. Father God wants us to change minds. Reckon our carnal mind dead (Romans 6:11) and use His - the mind of Christ. That is why He gave it to us so we could think like Him and live in victory.

