**I Corinthians 2:13-3:8**

***When Will You Grow Up?***

Introduction

1. When will you ever grow up?

2. I Corinthians 2:13-3:8 Paul could have asked the Corinthians the same question.

**I. THE CAUSE OF NEVER GROWING UP 2:13**

The mature, spiritual understand spiritual things. The carnal and babes don’t. (2:6-12)

 You will never grow up without the Word of God and digging into the Word. Then you

 must compare spiritual things with spiritual.

1. ***The Words*** *which the Holy Spirit teaches…The writers of Scripture affirm, where the subject is mentioned by them at all, that the words of their writings are divinely taught. This, of necessity, refers to the original documents, not to translations and versions. The labors of competent scholars have brought our English versions to a remarkable degree of reliability, so no essential truth of Scripture is ever under any question. Scofield*
2. In 2:9-14 Paul gives the process by which the Truth passes from the mind of God to the mind of His people:

\*The unseen things of God are undiscoverable by the unsaved (9).

\*The unseen things God has revealed to chosen people (10-12).

\*The revealed things are revealed in Spirit taught words (13). The Spirit infallibly guides in the choice of words from the writers vocabulary.

\*These Spirit taught words, in which the revelation has been expressed, are discerned only by believers. But to understand, believers must study. (13b, 14b)

 **2.** God’s Word is inspired and invaluable!

 ***B. The Wisdom*** *not in words which man’s wisdom teaches…v. 13 parallels v. 6.* Secular

 education could not prepare one for this spiritual activity. *The Holy Spirit teaches…*

 which means that God must enlighten.

 ***C.*** ***The Way*** *Comparing spiritual truth with spiritual…*this is communicating spiritual

 things with spiritual words. The Holy Spirit supplies the language as well as the

 substance. We have **Revelation (10) Illumination (12) Inspiration (13)**

 **Interpretation (13b, 14b)** We must compare Scripture with Scripture. Interpretation of

 divine inspiration…how is this to be done? It takes a mind filled with the Holy

 Spirit…prayer and this takes an acquaintance with God. God opens His Word. You will

 never grow up if you don’t get into the Word of God. You will never hear the voice of

 God apart from the Word of God. *Listen to no man who has not first listened to God.*

 *Listen to the man who listens to God.*

**II. THE CONDITION OF NEVER GROWING UP 2:14-3:2**

Three men (*man* is gender neutral) are described. One is an unbeliever and two are believers.

1. ***The Natural Man 14*** ***\**See Image**
2. **His Reception** *Receives not the things of the Spirit of God…*This person is dead to the Spirit and spiritual things. This one is lost.
3. **His Reasons** *They are foolishness unto him* He has no interest and they are moronic.

*\*He is spiritual discerned*  He has a soul (thinker, feeler, chooser) but his spirit is non-existent to spiritual things. *\**His perceptions are limited to the Body and Soul (thinker, feeler, chooser). He has no receiver for spiritual things. \*The Word belongs to the realm of the Spirit. Without a spiritual capacity, he cannot receive the things of the Spirit. They are foolishness to him.

1. ***The Spiritual Man*** ***15, 16*** This one is *mature, complete (v. 6)* ***\**See Image**
2. **His Measure 15a** *Judges all things*
3. **His Motion 15b** *He is judged by no man (Phil. 2:15)*
4. **His Mind 16** He has the *mind of Christ*. The natural man cannot figure this one out, because he does not have the *mind of Christ.* He judges all things from a spiritual perspective.

\*This does not mean perfection, but he is surrendered to and obedient to the will of the Father.

\*The Spirit is in the process of making this one more Christ-like.

1. ***The Carnal Man 3:1-2 \**See Image**

**1. Their Curriculum 1a** *I could not speak unto you as spiritual, but carnal.* The ‘carnal

 Christian’ looks very much like the lost with little purpose and meaning.

***2.* Their Comparison 1b** *even as babes in Christ* He looks like a babe in Christ, although

 they may have been saved a number of years.

***3.* Their Consumption 2a** *I have fed you milk not solid food..*

***4.* Their Continuation 2b** *You were not able to bear it neither yet now*

**SELF** sits on the throne and is in control.

**Which circle represents your life?**

**III. THE CHARACTER OF NEVER GROWING UP 3:1-4**

1. ***Spiritual Depravation 1, 2***
2. *I could not speak unto you as spiritual.* They are *brethren* and *in Christ,* so they are believers...even though they act self-centered and immature. *Carnal* is *sarkinos*… they are fleshy. They are flesh and self-oriented.
3. They are *like or as babes.* *Babes…*what do they eat? They eat baby food!*Baby food…*salvation…experience…testimony…fleshly appeals.

\***You Couldn’t Take It** *Solid food…Meat*

**\*You Can’t Take It** *Solid food…*justification…fruit of the spirit…spiritual

 discernment…Spirit control…Death to Self…Absolute Surrender…Yield Up Your

 Rights!

 **3.** It’s not how long you have been saved, but how much have you grown?

 ***B. Spiritual Division 3, 4*** *You are carnal…fleshy*

**1. The Evidence:** *envying…strife…division among you...are you carnal and walk as*

 *men?*

**2. The Enemy:** here is the evidence of division…*I am of Paul…I am of Apolos*

 *\*Babes* are selfish, self-centered. The world revolves around them. They walk like

 the world. They handle everything like the lost. They solve conflicts like the lost.

 Theyraise their children like the lost. They spend their money like the lost. They

 listen and watch like the lost.

 \*They never get beyond personality and politics.

**It’s not about us. It’s about God and what He is doing!**

**IV. THE CURRICULUM FOR NEVER GROWING UP 3:5-8**

When we think it’s all about us:

1. ***We Are Servants 5*** *Ministers…by whom you believed* These were just instruments that God used to bring you the Gospel. *Who is Paul or Apollos?*  We forget who we are or whose we are. We are agents. God is the Author. They are just servants doing the bidding of their Master. Imagine quarreling over a servant when they were only doing the job assigned to them.
2. ***We Are Planters and Waterers 6, 7*** Nothing is wrong with planting and watering, but both are useless unless God gives the increase. Somehow if there is no planting or watering, there will be no increase. We each have a responsibility. Only God produces life and growth. We aren’t anything. All results come from God!
3. ***We Are One, But We Are Individuals 8*** There is a oneness of aim, outlook and purpose. Each servant will stand before his Master. It does matter what you do. Ultimately God checks our motives, means and measures. One day we will stand before Him.

***Then It Will Be Too Late To Grow Up.* It’s not about you. It’s all about Him!**

** NATURAL SPIRITUAL CARNAL**