

**SERMON
STUDY
NOTES**

**Prepared by
Pastor David Bellows**

The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, The Carnal Man

¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. ¹ Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly (carnal)—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly (carnal). For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly (carnal)? Are you not acting like mere humans?

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 (NIV)

The World has Classifications of Humans

Economically: Rich or Poor or Middle Class

Academically: Intellectual or Illiterate

Sociologically: Cultured or Uncultured

Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks (Gentiles) or the church of God—
1 Corinthians 10:32 (NIV)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)

“The natural man (the man without the Holy Spirit) does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. He cannot understand them because they are spiritually appraised.”
1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

“The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, The Carnal Man”

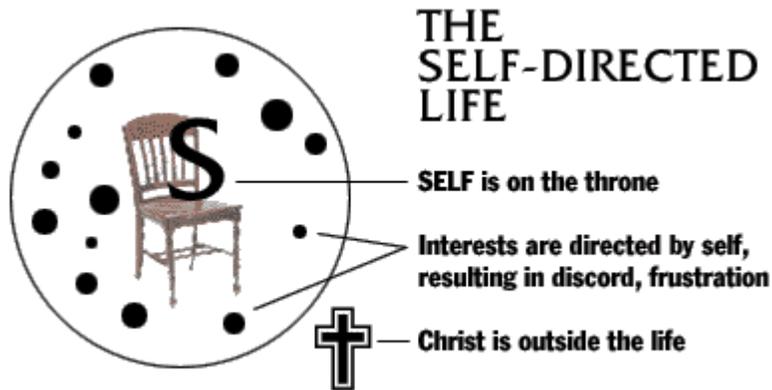
Christ’s Church of Marion County

April 19, 2020

Page 2 of 14

Natural Man

(one who has not received Christ)



- 1) Man without the Holy Spirit. (V14)
- 2) No appreciation for the things of God.
- 3) Often good moral people but have no spiritual life.
- 4) The Natural Person is uncomfortable about spiritual things.
- 5) In a church they will drop out, move out or lash out.
- 6) Physically alive but spiritually dead.
- 7) Has not been born again.

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

“The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, The Carnal Man”

Christ’s Church of Marion County

April 19, 2020

Page 3 of 14

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

Spiritual Man

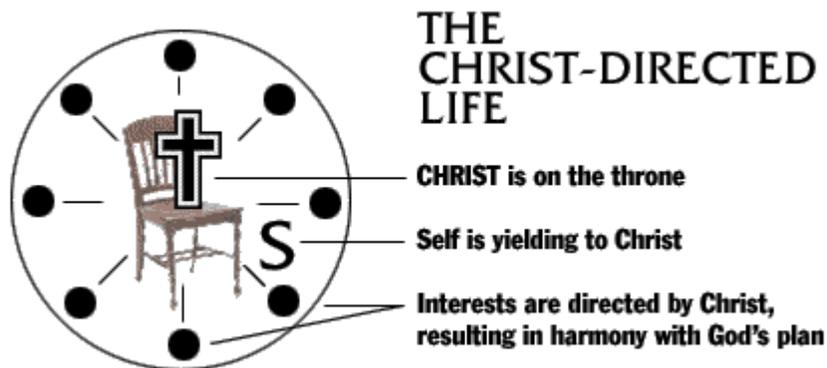
“But the spiritual man has insight into everything. And that bothers and baffles the man of the world who can’t understand him at all.” 1 Corinthians 2:15 (TLB)

¹⁵ *The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,* ¹⁶ *for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.* 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 (NIV)

- 1) Possesses the Ability to discern spiritual things. (V15)
- 2) Bothers and baffles the man of the world.
- 3) Dependable Joyful Happy Full of Purpose

Spiritual Man

(One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit)



“The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, The Carnal Man”

Christ’s Church of Marion County

April 19, 2020

Page 4 of 14

Christ-centered
 Empowered by
 the Holy Spirit
 Introduces others
 to Christ
 Effective prayer life
 Understands God's
 Word
 Trusts God
 Obeys God



Love
 Joy
 Peace
 Patience
 Kindness
 Faithfulness
 Goodness

The Carnal Man

“I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly (or Carnal). (He’s talking to Christians, these are saved people with spiritual gifts.) Mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk not solid food because you weren’t ready for solid food. Indeed you’re still not ready. You’re still worldly. (You do what the world does – you don’t do what Christians should do.) For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)

Carnal Man

(One who has received Christ, but who lives in defeat because is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength)



THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE

Self is on the throne

Christ dethroned and not allowed to direct the life

Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration

“The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, The Carnal Man”

Christ’s Church of Marion County

April 19, 2020

Page 5 of 14

The Carnal Man - Some or all of the following traits may characterize the Christian who does not fully trust God:

Ignorance of his spiritual heritage
Unbelief
Disobedience
Loss of love for God and for others
Poor prayer life
No desire for Bible study



Legalistic attitude
Impure thoughts
Jealousy
Guilt
Worry
Discouragement
Critical spirit
Frustration
Aimlessness

1) Doesn't **MATURE** but remains childish. (3:1) *Mere infants in Christ*

“(God) rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless⁸ for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard” 2 Peter 2:7-8 (NIV)

2) Dangerous, **DEFECTIVE** diet. (3:2) *milk, not solid food*

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV)

“The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, The Carnal Man”

Christ’s Church of Marion County

April 19, 2020

Page 6 of 14

“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

1 Corinthians 3:3 (KJV)

DISTINCTIVES OF CARNAL MAN

3 Jealousy, DISCORD, CLIQUES.

A) Pushes own **SELFISH AGENDA**, blames others.

B) **DISSENSION** or bitter **CONFLICT**.

C) The mind of Carnal Man is **DEATH**.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

Romans 8:6 (KJV)

Small Group Study Notes

**Prepared by
Small Groups Pastor
Ray Westman**

Small Group Study

“The Natural Man, The Spiritual Man, the Carnal Man”

David’s Sermon speaks of the natural, spiritual and carnal man.

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

In his sermon notes David listed 7 characteristics of the natural man: A man without the Holy Spirit, with no appreciation for the things of God, often good people but no spiritual life, uncomfortable about spiritual things, angry, physically alive but spiritually dead, has not been born again.

This is our natural state at birth inherited from Adam. It is a self-directed life and we sit upon the throne with God outside our circle. (See attached Sermon Notes and picture of Natural Man with SELF on the throne found on page 3)

Discuss the seven characteristics of the natural man and compare your life before Christ and your life today with His Holy Spirit within you.

The ancient Greek word for natural man is “psuchikos.” It describes the materialist, who lives as if there were nothing beyond this physical life. This is the kind of life common to all animals.

We can not understand spiritual things without the Spirit of God so we call them foolish and they are foolish to us when we compare them to the world, which we do know, money, success, fame, etc. These are the only things the natural man knows and understands (worldly things).

Read: Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Because of His great love for us God gave us the Holy Spirit of life and with the Sprit in us, we can now discern spiritual things.

David listed three abilities we receive when we receive the Holy Spirit:

1. The ability to understand spiritual things.
2. The ability to understand that the natural man doesn't know God.
3. That we are dependable, joyful, happy and full of purpose at all times.

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Use the picture in the sermon notes that depicts the man who's life is Christ Centered, notice with this man Christ is on the throne. (Page 4)

What other changes do you see when you compare the two lives. One man lives a natural life, the other a Christ-directed life? (**Discuss**).

Notice the picture at the top of page five of David's notes that describe the life of a Christ Centered person. Discuss each one and how much more they mean to you in your Christ Centered life.

The third man David spoke of is the Carnal man who self directs his life. He has received the Spirit but tries to run his own life, sometimes apart from God. Look at the picture in the sermon notes on page 5 and compare his life to both the natural and spiritual man.

This man tries to live in both worlds and flip flops back and forth.

Discuss the problem with trying to live this type of life.

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

Discuss his life as depicted in the picture found on page 6 of your sermon notes.

The Sermon tells us about the lives of three different people, the natural person, the spiritual person and the carnal person who lives with one foot in both worlds.

Have your group look into each one and talk about where they are right now and why (for instance) do we flip flop back and forth between the last two, the spiritual and carnal lifestyle.

If this is your first time using the sermon notes provided for small group studies they are the same notes you would receive as a Small Group teacher. As you can see, they are easy to read, self-explanatory and they will allow you to teach a small group anywhere at any time.

If you would like to know more about these notes, small groups and teaching opportunities just give me a call. Ray Westman 352-208-9023, or Email me at: ray@ccomc.org

R. Westman April 2020

