

## WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



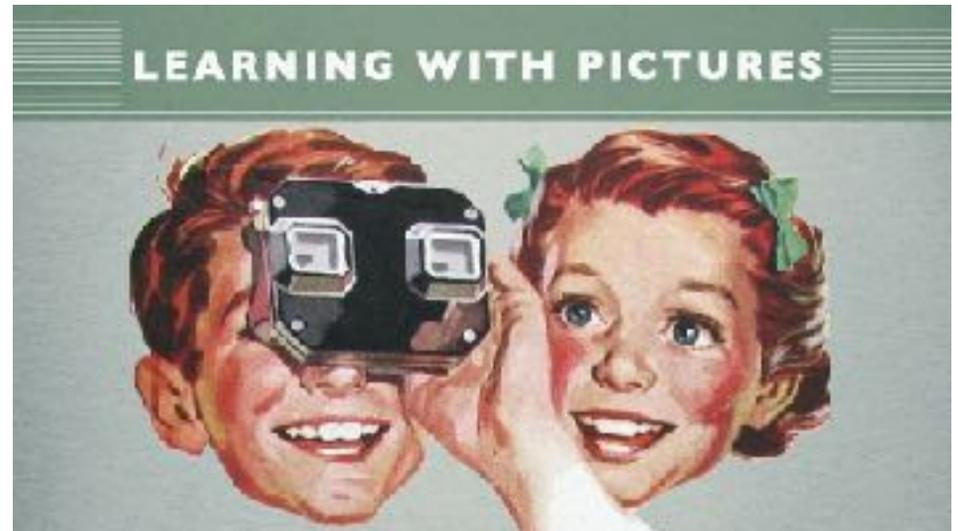
### FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are the three kinds of people that Paul described, and how would you explain or illustrate them in your own words?
2. What was the reason that Paul calls these people “babies”? What was their sin?
3. What did you learn about church leaders and workers? What is your best “picture” of a servant?
4. Why is Paul focusing on God’s work instead of his own?
5. What was most helpful to you in this section of Scripture?

### SCRIPTURES

1Cor. 3:1 *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? 4 For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?*

1Cor. 3:5 *What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.*



February 10 & 11, 2018 | Pictures #1 | 1Cor. 3:1-9 | Dennis Miller, pastor

### TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES

1. It is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words,” and Paul uses that idea to SHARE his message in chapter 3.
2. The focus is that God BUILDS the church and that His people need to work towards MATURITY.

*Psa. 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.*

### LET’S REVIEW

1. Paul wrote a LETTER to Corinth several years after living 18 months AMONG the people.
2. He reminded them of the blessings of knowing Christ: GRACE, GIFTS and GLORY.
3. But his purpose was to correct at least TEN spiritually unhealthy lifestyle PATTERNS — the first being divisions.
4. In chapter 3, Paul uses WORD pictures. (*Babies, Follow the Leader, A Garden, A Building, A Bonfire, A Temple & Wise vs. Fools*)
5. He also explains how he perceives these people:

NATURAL	CARNAL	SPIRITUAL
ψυχικός	σαρκικός	πνευματικός
psychikos (2:14)	sarkikos (3:1)	pneumatikos (3:1)

## THE PROBLEM

*1Cor. 3:1 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? 4 For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?*

1. Paul is speaking to CHURCH people (“*Brothers and sisters,*”).
2. He explains that he could not SPEAK to these people like you would typically speak to BELIEVERS (“STILL”).

*1Cor. 3:1 And I, brethren, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual, but as to fleshly — as to babes in Christ; 2 with milk I fed you, and not with meat, for ye were not yet able, but not even yet are ye now able, (Young’s)*

3. Instead he has to speak to them like INFANTS. The word used here is not teknon (τέκνον), but nēpios (νήπιος), which is like saying “BIG BABIES” today. (*A baby here is someone that is IGNORANT of the truth, and we are all babies at some point!*)

4. MILK is the perfect food for babies, but for the sake of health and growth, children must move to SOLID FOOD (or meat).

*1Pet. 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,*

*1Cor. 2:6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age . . .*

5. And the RESULT of this babyishness and carnality is jealousy (*zēlos, ζήλος*) and quarreling (*eris, ἔρις*). Jealousy is the ATTITUDE and quarreling is the ACTION that follows.

6. And WORST of all, this zeal (jealousy) and bickering is about HUMAN leaders; Paul and Apollos. (“*Carnal, carnal, carnal*” or “*worldly, worldly, worldly*” or “*sarkikos, sarkikos, sarkikos.*” )

## THE SOLUTION

*1Cor. 3:5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.*

1. Certainly leaders in the church are IMPORTANT. Paul appointed ELDERS and/or pastors in all of his churches. But we need to understand what these leaders REALLY are in God’s eyes. They are SERVANTS (*diakonos, διάκονος*). This term is used for someone who does MENIAL labor.

2. And all servants of the Lord are simply INSTRUMENTS to accomplish His PLAN. You never HONOR the instrument but the one who SKILLFULLY uses it.

3. These “servants” are then defined by Paul:

- They have God’s work done THROUGH them.
- They have different ROLES (*one plants, one waters, etc.*).

*Eph. 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,*

- They have no PRODUCTION on their own.
- They are NOTHING in and of themselves.
- They have one PURPOSE.

- They will each be REWARDED.

- They are rewarded according to labor, not RESULTS.

- They are TEAMMATES or co-workers in God’s service.

4. On the other hand, the Lord makes things GROW and deserves our ZEAL and WORSHIP.

*Psa. 69:9 for zeal for your house consumes me, .*

*. .*

*John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”*

*Mark 4:26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.*

*27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.*



5. So, you are not Paul’s FIELD or Apollos’ BUILDING! You are GOD’S field and GOD’S building. *Get it straight!*

*1Cor. 3:9 . . . you are God’s field, God’s building.*