

Reality—Carnal or Spiritual?

Lesson 5 – Outline

1. Carnal-mindedness is allowing your mind to be dominated by what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6).

- A. “Carnal” literally means “of the five senses,” or “sensual.”
 - B. Carnal-mindedness doesn’t necessarily mean “sinful”-mindedness.
 - C. You are carnally minded when your thoughts center primarily on the physical realm.
2. Spiritual-mindedness releases the flow of God’s life in you, but carnal-mindedness shuts it off.
 - A. Carnal-mindedness = death, and spiritual-mindedness = life and peace.
 - B. “Death” means “anything that’s a result of sin.”
 - C. In this fallen world, being dominated by your natural senses produces death.

3. When your thoughts are dominated by what the Word says, you’re spiritually minded.

“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

- A. It doesn’t matter what your physical circumstances may be—God can keep you in perfect peace.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Is. 26:3).

- B. As your mind stays on Him, your soul agrees with your spirit, and God’s peace is released into your soul and body.
4. Believers shouldn’t live like lost people, who are trapped in their carnal, physical world.

“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind” (Eph. 4:17).

- A. “Gentile” was a non-Jew, someone not in covenant relationship with God.
 - B. Unbelievers don’t use their minds to perceive spiritual truth.
5. If you don’t renew your mind and use it to study and meditate God’s Word, it will automatically gravitate toward what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel.

“Having the understanding darkened” (Eph. 4:18).

- A. The knowledge of God is critical, but must be understood to be useful.
 - B. Without understanding, you can't release the life in it.
6. When a Christian walks like an unbeliever, they get the same results—death.
- A. When a believer's understanding is darkened, they are alienated from the life of God within them through ignorance.

“Alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart” (Eph. 4:18).

- B. Most Christians live their lives separated from the life of God within due to their own ignorance of spiritual truth.
7. Lasciviousness is being controlled by what you feel.

“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:19).

- A. Most people have gone beyond simply receiving sensory input to being dominated by it.
- B. Feelings were designed to follow what you think, not lead the way.