

Answer Five: Understanding the Spiritual Stages of Man
1 Corinthians 02:14 – 03:04

1 *The natural man*

- a. He does not accept the things of the Spirit
- b. He considers them foolishness
- c. He is incapable — spiritually

2 *The spiritual man*

- a. He discerns all things
- b. He is not understood by the natural man
- c. Reason:
He has the mind,
the spirit of the Lord

3 *The carnal, worldly man*

- a. He is not spiritual (mature); he is as a babe in Christ
- b. He has to be fed with milk, not the meat of the Word
- c. He is characterized by division
 - 1) Envy and strife
 - 2) Acting as a mere man
 - 3) Professing to be a follower of mere men — of earthly parties

14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.

CHAPTER 3

1 Brothers,
I could not address you as spiritual but as 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 quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?