

## **I Corinthians 3:1-3** **Baby Christians**

### **Introduction:**

Once we are born by the Spirit into the family of God we know that there isn't instant development and growth. All of us start off as baby Christians, but what is displeasing to the Lord is when baby Christians remain babies and never seem to grow up in the Christian faith. Samuel Rutherford's letters are most encouraging as he deals with various experiences we confront in the Christian life. C.H. Spurgeon said Rutherford's letters were "the nearest thing to inspiration which can be found in all the writings of mere man." Rutherford writes about beginners in Christ...

### **I. Sensual Christians**

#### **A. Paul's Correction**

1. Past tense – 2:1
2. Milk and not solid food v.2; I Pet. 2:2
3. Pivotal text – v.2b "even now you are not able" (John MacArthur)

#### **B. Consequences:**

1. Paul cannot call them but "fleshly" (sensual) Gk. Carnal, "worldly character of the natural man" I Cor., 2:14 cf. Rom. 12:2
2. Paul sees a failure in a moral sense – v.3; **Turn To: Gal. 5:19-21** cf. Rom. 13:14
3. Paul sees quarreling among each other – I Cor. 1:11 cf. 3:4-9

### **II. Mature Christians**

#### **A. What exactly is a mature Christian? (Simon Kistemaker) Mature Christians consume solid food of God's Word.**

1. Governed by the Spirit – (Gk, puenmatikos, pertaining to the Spirit)
2. Beyond the rudimentary doctrines of the Christian faith.

#### **B. Christian Maturity: Turn to Hebrews 5:11-6:1-3**

1. No longer playing with basic blocks – "dull of hearing" Heb. 5:11 (R.C. Sproul)
2. Should be teachers by now – Heb. 5:12 cf. Jam. 3:1
3. Accustomed to the word of righteousness – Heb. 5:13
4. Trained minds to discern – Heb.5:14 "trained" Gk. Gumnazo "to exercise our minds" cf. II Pet. 2:14
5. Leaves the elementary school and presses on to maturity in Christ – Heb.6:1

### **Conclusion:**

1. *Let us be a help to Christians babies, by encouraging them to press on for maturity in Christ.*
2. *Let us whom the Lord has been pleased to advance unto maturity, not rest as though we have arrived but continue to exercise and renew our minds for the good of the church and the glory of Christ.*

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