

## **The Perception of Spirituality That Makes the Church Run Well**

**Gal. 5:25-6:1**

### **Introduction:**

- A. The perception of being spiritual varies widely with different people.
  - 1. To some it being spaced out – almost out of touch with reality.
  - 2. To some it being spontaneous in religious expression.
  - 3. To some it is having no interest in this world at all.
- B. The words “spiritual” and “carnal” have basic meaning, but vary in application.
  - 1. Sometimes spiritual versus material (Rom. 15:27; 1 Cor. 9:11)
  - 2. Sometimes spiritual versus literal flesh (1 Pet. 2:5)
  - 3. Sometimes being led by the H.S. versus the impulses of the flesh (Rom. 8:5-14)
- C. The Bible is the best guide on how to tell difference between being carnal and being spiritual:

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. One Can Tell the Difference by the Law One Serves (Gal. 5:18; cf. vv. 4,5)**

- A. The O.T. had a special fleshly connection (Heb. 7:16; 9:10-15)
  - 1. It was in a sense spiritual (Rom. 8:14; cf. 2 Pet. 1:21)
  - 2. But still overwhelmingly carnal: in its subjects and ordinances.
- B. The N.T. has a special connection to the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:6-8)
  - 1. A spiritual nation rather than a fleshly nation.
  - 2. Spiritual sacrifices rather than fleshly sacrifices.
  - 3. Called “the law of Spirit and life” (Rom. 8:2)

#### **II. One Can Tell the Difference by the Loyalty One Shows (1 Cor. 3:1-6)**

- A. Loyalty to men based on fleshly considerations.
  - 1. Overly influenced by fleshly attachments: kinship.
  - 2. Overly influenced by fleshly association: friendship.
  - 3. Overly influenced by fleshly admiration: academics - charisma.
  - 4. Overly influenced by fleshly ambition: “my own man.”
- B. Loyalty to the Godhead based on spiritual considerations.
  - 1. Objectively weighs teaching in light of Bible – not matter who teaches it.
  - 2. Accepts or rejects only on basis of what the Spirit teaches.
  - 3. Loves and appreciates teachers, but accepts only if shown that the Spirit teaches it.
  - 4. Divisions, strife, etc. – fruit of carnal minded loyalty to men.

#### **III. One Can Tell the Difference by the Lusts One Suppresses (Gal. 5:16, 17)**

- A. Natural and unnatural desires (v. 19; Rom. 1:26-27)
- B. Natural reactions (v. 20)
- C. Natural aspirations – “selfish ambitions” (v. 20 NKJ) – popularity, power, etc.
- D. Natural inclinations – toward pleasures (v. 21)

#### **IV. One Can Tell the Difference by the Life One Seeks**

- A. For himself (1 Cor 9:27)
- B. For others (Gal. 6:1)
- C. For Now (Gal. 2:20; Tit. 2:11-12)
- D. Forever (Gal. 6:8-10)

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Are you a spiritually or carnally minded person?
  - 1. Do to try to serve God after New or Old Testament order?
  - 2. Do you base your convictions more on personal relationships than on scriptural reasons?
  - 3. Do you keep your natural desires and inclinations in check?
  - 4. Do you seek to live as the Spirit directs for now in view of eternity?
- B. Are you truly spiritual? Then you will respect the commands written by the apostles (1 Cor. 14:37)