

Sermon Outline: "Are You an Adult or a Child?" – 1 Corinthians 3:1–4

Worship Service – June 15, 2025

Introduction

Pentecost: The Holy Spirit's "command to begin mission."

The Holy Spirit gives life, presence, and words of testimony.

We (Christians) have "the mind of Christ" (led by the Spirit).

Yet Paul called the Corinthian church "fleshly" and "infants."

Why were those led by the Spirit called "fleshly"?

Foundational Principle

Confessing faith is possible only through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).

All who are saved belong to the Spirit.

Being a Christian = Experiencing the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Main Points

1) Why Paul couldn't speak as to spiritual people (3:1)

- Spiritual immaturity remained in the church.
- Difference between adults and children = richness of life experience.
- "Infants in Christ" = lacking experience in life led by the Spirit.
- Spiritual gifts ≠ Spiritual maturity.
- Gifts of the Spirit ≠ Fruit of the Spirit.
- Paul spoke only foundational truths as to spiritual infants.

2) Why they could not mature spiritually (3:2)

- "You were not ready. You are still not ready." = stagnation in growth.
- Deep truths ("solid food") are learned through Spirit-led experiences.
- Lacked experiences of life under the Holy Spirit.
- Years of faith ≠ Spiritual maturity (even a 5-year-old church was immature).
- Key = accumulated experience bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

→ Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23):

"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"

3) How to discern your own condition (3:3–4)

- Criterion for being spiritually mature or immature = the fruit of your actions.
- Envy, strife, and division were present in Corinth.
- Greek word for envy: *zelos* – means zeal, passion, enthusiasm.
- Zeal not from the Spirit causes conflict and division.
- Are you doing works of the flesh or bearing fruit of the Spirit?

→ Works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19–21):

“Envy, strife, division, factionalism, sexual immorality...”

Conclusion

Those saved by the Spirit should grow through the Spirit.

Don't remain as spiritual infants.

Grow to receive "solid food" (the deep truths of the Gospel).

A life bearing the fruit of the Spirit is the path to spiritual maturity.

Response

Are you spiritually an “infant” or an “adult”?

Are you bearing the fruit of the Spirit? Or led by fleshly desires?

Seek the filling of the Spirit and pray for experiences led by Him.

Is the Spirit urging you toward actions (love, forgiveness, patience)? Listen to His voice.

If something is being shown to you, decide to obey.