

## Holiness is Godliness – Part 4

I Cor. 2:9 – 3:4

### The Human Family of this Earth is Divided into Three Groups

- The “natural” man – “can not know them” - 2:14
- The “carnal” man – “not able to bare it” - 3:2
- The “spiritual” man - three things said of him:
  - o “know the things given...of God” - 2:12
  - o “know the deep things of God” - 2:10
  - o “has the mind of Christ” - 2:16
- These groups are classified according to their ability to receive and understanding a certain body of truth; being that which is revealed by God thru the Holy Spirit. – v. 9

### The truth revealed in verse 9

- This is not in reference to the glories of heaven and what we will finally enjoy of eternity. Note two things about it.
- In the “context” it is what the Holy Spirit will reveal to us in this life – right now!
- It is a statement of **contrast**:
  - o The natural man gains understanding by the eyes, ears, and his human reasoning powers.
  - o The spiritual man understanding “supernaturally” by the revelations of God by His Spirit within us.

### Therefore, in this life we can, through the Holy Spirit:

We can know the deep things of God  
We can be taught by the Spirit of God  
We can compare spiritual things with spiritual  
We can have spiritual discernment  
We can exercise spiritual judgment  
We can know the mind of Christ

### Here is the Key to Godliness, Christ-likeness, Holiness

Apart from the Holy Spirit there is no spiritual understanding.  
Spiritual understanding is the basis of Godliness  
Godliness in a believer is totally the work of the Holy Spirit.

### Pause here for some definition of terms:

Godliness, Christ-likeness, holiness are very similar terms. Often used in context with each other. 2 Pet. 3:11

Godliness – 15x in NT = “devotedness to God”  
Holiness - 13x in NT = “consecrated to God”  
Christ-Likeness – (not a biblical term, but a biblical concept) e.i.;  
a. Title Christian – 3x in NT – “follower of; a Christ-one”  
b. “in Christ” – 77x in NT – position/practice; Col. 1:27-29  
c. Conceptually – Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 5:20; Phil. 2:1-5

**These term build a progression:** When we are devoted to Christ (heart and mind) and consecrated to Christ (behavior) we will be looking more and more like Christ; living forth His likeness.

### There are two great spiritual changes which are possible to our human experience:

1. Changed from the “natural” man to the “saved” man;  
We become a “child of God, born into His family.
2. Changed from the “carnal” man to the “spiritual” man;  
As his child, we then bare the family likeness.

The first change is accomplished by faith in the truth of the Gospel  
The second change is made by yielded-ness to the Holy Spirit.

Believers, experiencing the first change, never know the second.  
There are two classes of Believers:

Those abiding in Christ – those not abiding in Christ (self, world)  
Those walking in the Light – those walking in darkness  
Those walking by the Spirit – those walking as men  
Walking in newness of life – those walking after the flesh  
Those obeying God’s Word – those obeying their own will  
Those living yielded to the Spirit – those grieving the Spirit  
Those quickly confessing sin – those living with unconfessed sin

### Here is a major Key to Spirituality – Confession of sin

Christ lived without sin

Christ-likeness is living without unconfessed sin – I John 1:9  
“forgiven and cleansed” reflects his righteousness in us.

## **One more Distinction – Spirituality v. Spiritual Growth**

1. A new saved believer may immediately be a spiritual believer; walking in the spirit; abiding in Christ; yield in obedience to the light of God's Word by the Spirit.
2. Spiritual growth is a process that involves:
  - Putting off the Old man – putting on the New man
  - Dying to self – living in the resurrected life of victory
  - It is moving from the milk to the meat of the Word

Spiritual growth is not required for Spirituality  
Spirituality leads the believer into Spiritual growth.

### **What is nature of Spiritual man of “godliness”**

- It is the “fruit of the Spirit” – Gal. 5:22-25
- It is the “walk of the man of God” - 1 Tim. 6:11
- It is according to God's divine power – 2 Pet. 1:3
- It is partaking of God's divine nature – 2 Pet. 1:4; 2 Tim. 3:5

### **Practical examples of Godliness, Christ-likeness, Holiness**

1. The greatest example is Christ himself – study His life.
  - Luke 4:22; Eph. 4:29-32; 1 Pet. 2:20-21
2. The practical example of the Holy Spirit.
  - John 16:13-15 - speak highly of Christ – glorify Him
3. Two human examples:
  - The Apostle Paul – Acts 9:6; Phil. 3:8-10, 14
  - Barnabas, the Encourager – Acts 11:19-26