

LOVE AND OBEDIENCE INSEPARABLE

Ec 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

O – OBTAINS GOD’S FRIENDSHIP. John 15:14 “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” We can be friends with God. Abraham was a friend of God. (James 2:23)

B – BETTER THAN SACRIFICE & BRINGS BLESSINGS. 1 Sa. 15:22 Samuel the prophet shares “...to obey is better than sacrifice.” Deuteronomy 28 lists blessings and the curses. Deuteronomy 5:29 “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!”

E – EXHIBITS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

D – DEATH TO SELF-LIFE & DISCIPLINE. Hebrews 12:5-6 “My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth and disciplines.” Discipline must be joined with death to self. It is dying out to what we want, what we plan and so forth. Luke 9:23 “If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” Paul said: “I die daily.” 1 Co 15:31

I – INVITATION, INSTANT OBEDIENCE, & IMITATORS OF CHRIST-LIKE BEHAVIORS. Mark 2:14 “Follow me.” Levi got up and followed Christ. John 1:43 to Philip he said: “Come follow me.” Ephesians 5:1 “Be imitators of God.”

E – ENTHUSIASM, ENJOYS, and EMPOWERED when we obey. John 15:10-11 “If ye keep my commandments, These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”

N – NEEDS SUPPLIED Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” We all have lots of “wants,” but God only promises to supply our needs!

C – CARRIES THE CROSS & CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. Luke 14:27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

E – ETERNAL LIFE. Rev. 22:14 Eternal life is promised to those who obey. “Blessed are they who do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

NATURAL MAN

1. The natural man is a man who lives according to nature.
 2. He is governed by his intellect and by his natural affections.
 3. The natural man has never experienced the rebirth – he is unconverted.
 4. The natural man is asleep to spiritual things.
 5. He cannot understand spiritual things, and spiritual things are foolishness unto him because he cannot process them in a rational manner. The natural man is one whose perceptions do not extend beyond his reason, experiences, and feelings. Therefore, the natural man lives in a small world. He lives in a world limited by his finite mind and his five senses. Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see (nor enter) the kingdom of God ." Man must be born again (John 3:3, 5, 7).
- I DID NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTIANS. THEY THINK IT IS FOOLISH.

CARNAL MAN

Paul said: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." 1 Co 3:1

1. So, the first thing we learn here is that a carnal Christian is as a **babe in Christ**. Hence, a carnal Christian is one who has been born of God, but he lives outside the kingdom of God which is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 14:17). He is one who does not grow, mature, or develop. He is as a babe. He has no accomplishments but that he is born.
3. He cannot walk, he cannot talk, he cannot understand nor follow instructions, he cannot help, he cannot serve, he cannot sacrifice for others, he cannot lift the burdens of others, he cannot fight battles, he cannot clean himself nor feed himself nor pull himself up.

Paul said: "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" 1 Co 3:3 There is yet a longer list of the fruits of carnality in Galatians 5:19–21: "Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God " (AMPLIFIED).

The Corinthian Christians' lives consisted of spiritual experiences, of the conversion experience and of experiences in the spiritual gifts. The Corinthian's were rich in spiritual gifts. Gifts were their life, but they had little else. They were yet carnal. They were carnal too long. They did not walk with God. They had plenty of spiritual experiences, but because they lacked the fruits of the Spirit, their gifts brought confusion, division, and strife to the body of Christ. At the root of all division and strife is criticism, fault-finding, analyzation, and complaints. We must be delivered from carnality. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily..." (Luke 9:23).

Ex. Swearing. I asked Jesus to cleanse me of that, if I was still doing that 25 years after my conversion one would think something was wrong. Growing up and maturity.

EX Robbing God. Selfish and stingy I didn't pay my tithes and offerings when I was a carnal Christian. But now I am careful because I know I want to obey Christ. Jesus sat down and watch them put their money in the plate. She gave her all.

EX Criticism never thought it was bad, until I began to see that carnal Christians criticize and find fault. I still fight this and have to ask Jesus to forgive me and to cleanse me. Most of the cleansing comes from prayer.

SPIRITUAL MAN

1. The spiritual man has the mind of Christ He is focused on Christ and not focuses on gifts or the conversion experience. New mind, new focus, He thinks and acts like Christ.
2. The spiritual man has the fruits of the Spirit. Gal 5:22
3. The Spiritual man is led by the Spirit of God. Rom 8:14 John 10:27 sheep hear my voice and follow. He reacts and acts like Christ. He loves and overcomes as Christ loves and overcomes. He will never go anywhere unless he knows Christ goes with him. He will not watch anything unless Christ is with him in the watching. He is abiding in Christ, and Christ is abiding in him.