

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Road Map to Maturity

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:6

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1738

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Everyone is in one of three categories:
 - i) The natural man
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - ii) The spiritual man
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:15
 - iii) The carnal man
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 3:1
- b) It's important that we understand which of these three categories we're in.
- c) The Bible is like a road map to guide us to where we need to be.
 - i) A map is not of much value to us unless we know where we are now.
 - (1) If we know where we are now, then we can know where we need to get to.
- d) Today's message will help us learn where we are in order to help us get to where we need to be.
- e) The first question asked of man in the Garden of Eden was, "Where are you?"
 - i) Genesis 3:9
 - ii) God was not asking for information; He knew where Adam was.
 - iii) God wanted Adam to know where he was and the predicament that Adam was in.

2) THE NATURAL MAN (1 CORINTHIANS 2:14)

- a) Are you a natural man, doing what comes naturally?
 - i) Ephesians 2:3
- b) There are three marks of the natural man:
 - i) He is born into the natural world.
 - (1) He is born just like anyone else.
 - (2) He has a natural birth and is born once.
 - (a) If you are only born once, then you'll die twice.
 - (i) The first death is the physical death.
 - (ii) The second death is eternal death.
 - (b) But if you are born twice, then you can only die once.
 - (i) You may die physically, but that which is born again goes on and on.
 - (3) The problem with man is what he received by his birth.
 - (a) The Lord Jesus says that all of the sins that are in mankind come out of the heart.
 - (i) You never have to teach a child to steal; you have to teach him not to steal.
 - (ii) You never have to teach a child to be selfish; you have to teach him not to be selfish.
 - (iii) You never have to teach a child to tell lies; you have to teach him not to tell lies.
 - (b) Psalm 58:3

- (4) If we extracted all of the goodness from everyone on the planet and combined all of those qualities into one individual, there would not be enough goodness in that one person to save his soul.
 - (a) He would have to bow at the cross and receive Jesus Christ.
- (5) The Bible says that in our own nature, there is nothing good.
 - (a) Romans 3:10
 - (b) Isaiah 64:6
- (6) We are by nature children of wrath.
 - (a) Ephesians 2:3
- ii) He is blind to the spiritual world.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - (a) “Spiritually discerned” means “spiritually understood.”
 - (b) The word “received” used in this passage literally means “to welcome.”
 - (i) He does not welcome spiritual things.
 - (ii) He has no appreciation for spiritual things.
 - 1. A natural man can appreciate a church service; he can appreciate the singing, the friendliness of the people, and even the sermon.
 - 2. But he does not understand the things of the Spirit of God.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 1:18
 - (3) The natural man doesn’t understand that Jesus died for our sins.
 - (a) John 1:29
 - (b) He doesn’t understand why we get excited for the things of God.
 - (4) “Neither can he know them.”
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - (b) He has no understanding.
 - (c) He couldn’t figure it out even if he wanted to.
 - (d) Until he is born again, he will not understand the Bible.
 - (i) He may know the words, but he will not understand the book.
 - 1. It is spiritually understood.
 - (5) John 3:10
 - (a) Nicodemus was a master in Israel, but even with all of his education, he could not understand.
- iii) He is bound to the material world.
 - (1) This world is the only world he knows.
 - (2) He is a materialist.
 - (3) He has no capacity for spiritual things.
 - (4) Jude 19
 - (a) “These” and the word “sensual” are the same word in the Greek that is translated as “natural” in our passage in 1 Corinthians.
 - (i) Natural or sensual; he lives by his senses.
- c) The crisis in the world today is a spiritual crisis.
 - i) The deep longing and hunger of men’s hearts is for God.

- d) The natural man cannot know God, and he cannot fellowship with God.
 - i) He must be born again in order for that to happen.

3) THE SPIRITUAL MAN (1 CORINTHIANS 2:15)

- a) The natural man does what is natural, what comes naturally.
- b) The spiritual man does what comes supernaturally.
- c) The spiritual man has been born twice.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 2:11-12
- d) There are three marks of the spiritual man:
 - i) He lives by the Spirit.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - (2) He has received the Spirit of God.
 - (a) That is, he has been born twice.
 - (b) Salvation is not merely getting man out of Earth into Heaven, but getting God out of Heaven and into man.
 - (c) He has been born again.
 - (3) Christians are not just natural people who decide to do better.
 - (a) They have been radically, dramatically and supernaturally changed by the new birth.
 - (b) God moves into him, and God inhabits his humanity.
 - (4) A Christian is not like a tadpole that becomes a frog.
 - (a) There is a frog in every tadpole.
 - (i) If he keeps maturing, then he'll become a frog.
 - (b) This is the Christianity some people believe in.
 - (i) They think that they can go to church and learn to do better.
 - (5) A Christian is like a frog that has become a prince by the kiss of grace.
 - (a) It is a miracle.
 - (b) It's not just simply a gradual change, becoming more of what we are by nature.
 - (i) It is becoming what we could never be by nature.
 - (6) He has received a new life.
 - ii) He learns from the Spirit.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - (a) When we receive the Spirit, we receive spiritual knowledge that we might know God.
 - (2) When we get saved, God turns the light on in our soul.
 - (a) Proverbs 20:27
 - (i) When God wants to illuminate you, He takes your human spirit, puts the oil of His Holy Spirit in that human lamp, and He illumines you from the inside.
 - iii) He is liberated through the Spirit.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:15
 - (a) "Judges all things" speaks of inward discernment.
 - (i) Some translations state, "The spiritual man discerns all things."

- (ii) The spiritual man has a different value system; he sees through a different lens.
 - (b) The word “discern” is a legal word meaning to make an examination, and on the basis of that examination, make a moral and spiritual judgment.
 - (i) The difference between the natural man who tries to discern and the spiritual man is this:
 - 1. The spiritual man sees with the mind of Christ.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:16
 - b. This world’s system does not squeeze the spiritual man into its mold, and he sees through things and sees what is happening in today’s world.
 - c. He sees things from God’s viewpoint.
 - d. He’s not bound to the material world; he is liberated by the Spirit of God.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 2:15
 - a. The spiritual man judges all things, but no man judges him.
 - i. He understands the unsaved man, but the unsaved man doesn’t understand him.
 - ii. 1 Peter 4:4
- 4) THE CARNAL MAN (1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-6)
- a) The natural man does what comes naturally, the spiritual man does what comes supernaturally, and the carnal man does what comes unnaturally.
 - b) The carnal man is a spiritual monstrosity.
 - i) He is neither fish nor fowl.
 - c) 1 Corinthians 3:1-2
 - i) Paul calls them brethren.
 - (1) They were in the church.
 - d) There are three marks of a carnal man:
 - i) The carnal man is a Christian, but he is defeated.
 - (1) He has no victory.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 3:1-2
 - (a) These verses speak of his inability.
 - (b) He doesn’t have the ability to do the things that a mature man ought to do.
 - (i) He cannot walk spiritually.
 - (ii) He cannot war spiritually.
 - (iii) He cannot work spiritually.
 - (3) He is a baby.
 - (a) This Scripture passage is not talking about physical babies but spiritual babies.
 - (b) We have people in the church who have never grown up.

- (4) A carnal Christian is a contradiction in terms.
 - (a) In the Christian world today, the average Christian is carnal.
 - (i) This is not a normal Christian.
 - 1. A normal Christian is a spiritual Christian.
 - 2. Every Christian should be a spiritual Christian.
 - (ii) The carnal Christian is doing that which is unnatural.
 - ii) The carnal man is dependent.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 3:2
 - (a) Paul is saying that he has become a spiritual nurse maid.
 - (2) If a carnal Christian grows at all, he is dependent upon spoon-fed sermons.
 - (3) He is dependent upon a teacher or pastor to teach him.
 - (a) Hebrews 5:11-14
 - (i) Some of them should have been teachers, but they had need that someone teach them again the first principles.
 - (b) There are members in our churches today who have never taught anyone.
 - (i) They just want to come to church on Sunday and be fed the sermon.
 - iii) The carnal man is divisive.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 2:3-6
 - (a) The church in this passage was dividing over trifles.
 - (b) Paul said that they were like little babies.
 - (2) These are the people who are divisive and can't get along.
 - (a) They have their favorite preachers, teachers, etc.
- 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) Everyone is in one of these three categories:
 - i) A natural man, lost and on the road to Hell.
 - ii) A spiritual man living in victory.
 - iii) A carnal man who is saved, but no one would know it.
 - b) Which category are you in today?
 - c) If you're a natural man and would like to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you can today.
 - d) Pray to Him now, and ask Him to come into your life.
 - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16