

Title: MARKS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

Text: I Cor. 3:1-3

Intro: Paul speaks of Corinthian Christians as immature babies. Rather than having grown up in the Lord, they were still carnal who were bringing shame to Christ. Could this be the case with some of you? Are YOU a spiritual baby? No doubt, the Corinthians would have denied being immature babies, yet Paul stated that they were! Examine yourself...YOU might be a spiritual baby IF...

1. You Often Fight with Other Christians. Babies fight about anything. Left to themselves, young siblings will slap, pull hair, kick, poke, argue, and scream. They haven't learned that they aren't enemies, so they live as though there were.

As a Christian, your enemies are the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Other Christians are NOT your enemies. Paul points out envy, strife and division as characteristics of babies! Yet, our churches are filled with Christians who see nothing better to do than fight with other church members.

2. You Enjoy Being the Center of Attention. A baby delights in being the center of attention. If someone else is receiving attention, a baby will do something to put himself in the spotlight. Many Christians are like this. Rather than wait for their turn (**I Pet. 5:6**), spiritual babies will speak or act against in an effort to draw attention to themselves. (**3 John 9**) John would have received much attention so Baby Diotrephes turned him away. Do you wait upon God or act hastily against another?

3. You Are Shallow in Your Knowledge of the Scriptures. Babies have very little knowledge and understanding, so they will drink poison, eat insects, play in the streets, and even jump into water far over their heads. They lack understanding, so they must rely on others to teach them. (**I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-13**)

If you are shallow in your Bible knowledge, you are as shallow about applying God's word to your life. You can't be obeying the Bible if you aren't faithfully learning it. This makes you a spiritual baby. God wants you to grow and be a man or woman in Christ!

4. You Are Easily Offended. Babies are very sensitive, and their feelings are easily hurt. When things don't go their way, they will whine, cry and be irritable. They haven't learned to endure so they are offended with distress. (**Psa. 119:165; Matt. 11:6**)

5. You Are Never Satisfied. A baby never ceases to moan and cry for things. He's hungry, so you feed him. Then he's tired, so you give him a nap. He then wakes up with a wet diaper. You change the diaper, then he wants to play. You refuse to play, so he cries. Then he runs and bumps his head. A baby is just never satisfied and is ever demanding and so difficult to please!

While maturing Christians pray, study, win souls, and grow, the murmuring little babies are being used of Satan to hinder and frustrate the real work of the ministry. (**Num. 11:1**). God is often displeased with constant murmuring, and He will surely judge murmurers if they don't stop. You, as a child of God, are expected to be content, thankful and joyful in the Lord (**Phil. 2:14; 4:4; 4:11; I Thes. 5:18**). Anything contrary to these charges is SIN.

6. You Have Trouble Staying Clean. A baby cannot stay clean. You can give him a good bath, powder and clean clothes, but he'll soon be a mess. He will play with anything, drop anything, and spill food over himself. A baby will not stay clean.

Are you like this? Do you live a clean life for Christ, or do you find yourself playing with sin? Do you peep at dirty magazines, and videos? (**John 15:3**) Most Christians don't spend even one tenth of the time reading their Bible that they waste watching television. No wonder you can't stay clean! You're a spiritual baby, always defiling yourself with sin. (**1 John 3:3**)

7. You Become Jealous Over the Success of Others. A baby only cares about himself. He is totally self-centered, so he always wants what others have. No matter how many toys he has, he will throw a fit if he cannot have another child's toy. If another child is receiving special attention, then a baby will become jealous and fight to have the attention all for himself.

Spiritual babies are the same. They become jealous when others receive special blessings. They have no time to rejoice with those that rejoice as they are so busy being jealous! (**Heb. 12:2**) If you find yourself focusing on the affairs of others, then maybe it's because you are still a babe in Christ and you need to grow.

Conclusion: Brethren, your spiritual growth is your personal responsibility. Your primary goal in life should be to become LIKE Jesus Christ. If you wear His holy name (CHRISTian), then you should live a life that is worthy of His name. (**2 Peter 3:18**)