

## *The Babes of Sin City (1 Corinthians 3:1-4)*

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. *Babes behaving badly*
  - B. Outline of the sermon and Prayer for sermon
  - C. Full review of the context in the pericope (1:18 - 3:3)
  - D. Read the passage and discuss the purpose of these verses
    1. A **transition** from the first reason of the divisions to the second  
*“a misunderstanding of the Christian ministry”*
    2. A concluding **rebuke** for their spiritual pride
    3. To get them to stop acting like babies in their carnal divisions
- II. **Exposition of the text**
  - A. **1 Corinthians 3:1-2a**
    1. *“Brothers”* (softens the rebuke)
    2. *“I could not”* ... *“I fed you”* (past tense) he recollects his time when he was first with them
    3. *“Milk”* vs. *“solid food”*
      - a. we once thought we were getting *“solid food”*
  - B. **1 Corinthians 3:2b-4**
    1. *“you are still carnal”*
      - a. *sarkikoi* (characterized by fleshly activity)  
vs. *sakinoi* (made of flesh)
    2. **Envy, strife and divisions** – infantile behavior that demonstrate their carnality and need to repent!
- III. **A misapplication of this text – the Carnal Christian model**
  - A. The doctrine of three ways (unregenerate, carnal, spiritual)
    1. Rom 8:1-9, Gal 5:17-24, and all of Scripture teach TWO WAYS
    2. But are there not Christians who behave carnally?
    3. Paul teaches two ways to the Corinthians (1Co 2:14-15, 2Co 5:17)
    4. Interpreting 1Co 3:3 as a “third way” violates the rules of Biblical hermeneutics:  
*single passages must be interpreted in light of the whole.*
    5. “The carnal Christian” model misinterprets 1Co 3:3
  - B. Some teachers of the “Carnal Christian” model
  - C. The Carnal Christian teaching leads to other unbiblical errors:
    1. It separates justification and sanctification as two experiences
    2. Suggest that there is no such thing as spurious (non-saving) faith
    3. They usually deny the need for repentance in salvation
    4. They often teach a wrong basis for assurance
    5. They often have a low view of sin and are antinomian
    6. Their theology necessitates a second work-of-grace
    7. They misunderstand the law, sin, and the wages of sin
- IV. **The right application of this text**
  - A. It’s time to grow up!
  - B. Be careful of idolatry of celebrities
  - C. Specifically this is a rebuke to ‘mature’ Christians