

What is the Victorious Christian Life?

I Corinthians 2:14-3:3

¹ According to the Bible there are three different types of people in the world: the non-spiritual person, the spiritual person and the world oriented Christian person. First Corinthians, Chapter 2, verses 14 through Chapter 3, verse 3, tell us about them. ²

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹ ³

The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. ² ⁴

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since

¹ 2:14.

² 2:15-16.

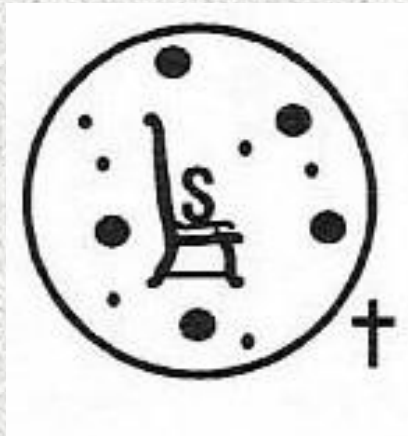
there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ³

How does God's word describe each? Which one are you? ⁵

Verse 14 describes . . .

I. The Non-Spiritual Person - 2:14

The non-spiritual person. ⁴



This is you if you don't have a personal relationship with the Lord. You are a person without the Spirit of

³ 3:1-3.

⁴ Bright, Bill, The Four Spiritual Laws, Campus Crusade for Christ, 2007.

God.⁵ ⁶ This is because you are sitting on the throne of your life. The elements and issues in your life are distorted and often out of place. Lord Jesus is on the outside of your life looking in.⁷

You can't understand spiritual things. They are, in fact, foolishness to you. Why?

A microchip can contain 773,746 words. But the words would be so small you couldn't read them without the aid of a microchip reader. You can look up into the sky at night and see hundreds of stars and planets, but they only look like white dots. You need a telescope to actually understand what some of them look like.⁸ To understand spiritual things you need the help of the Holy Spirit!⁹

Galatians, Chapter 5,⁶ tells us that the ways of the world and the ways of the Spirit are contrary to one

⁵ 2:14 - The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

⁶ Galatians 5:17 - For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

another. The only way to really understand the spiritual is to destroy your old orientation. ¹⁰ Romans, Chapter 6, verse 6, tells us how. **For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.** ¹¹

If you are a non-spiritual person, at least thirteen sins come from your heart. Mark, Chapter 7, verse 20, show us what they are. **What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'** For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean'. Is this beginning to sound like you? ¹²

If you are a non-spiritual person, you have at least four characteristics that are found in Ephesians, Chapter 2, verses 1 through 3 and Jeremiah, Chapter 17, verse 9. ¹³ The first is you are dead in trespasses and sins. ¹⁴ The second is you are disobedient to the

real will of God. ¹⁵ The third is you crave the things of this world rather than the things of God. ¹⁶ Fourth, your heart is deceitful and beyond cure! ¹⁷

If you are a non-spiritual person, this is your fate. ¹⁸
You become the object of God's eventual wrath. ^{7 19}
You will never see the real-life God has available for you! ^{8 20}

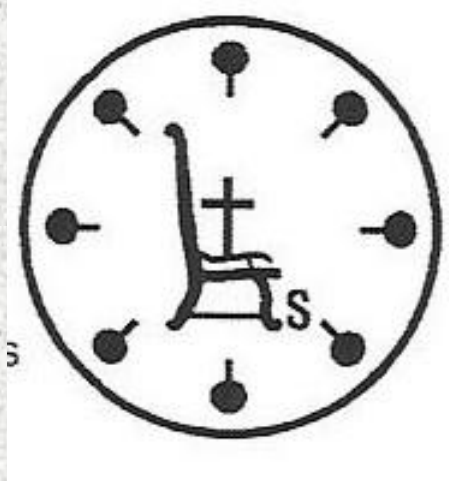
The second type of person described here is . . .

⁷ Ephesians 2:3 - Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

⁸ John 3:36 - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

II. The Spiritual Person - 2:15-16 ⁹

The spiritual person. ¹⁰ ₂₁



This is what you want to be. This is the person God wants you to be. Lord Jesus sits on the throne of your life and calls the shots in it. The result is all the elements and issues in your life are organized and run relatively smoothly. ²²

This is the type of person whose life has been exchanged for a new one! Galatians, Chapter 2, verse 20 says, **I have been crucified with Christ and I no**

⁹ 2:15-16 - The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

¹⁰ ¹⁰ Bright, Bill, The Four Spiritual Laws, Campus Crusade for Christ, 2007.

longer live, but Christ lives in me. ²³ Your life will be recognized by others, and yourself, by the spiritual fruit your life is producing. ¹¹ ²⁴ You receive the power of the Holy Spirit to live your life victoriously! ¹² ²⁵ You can now understand spiritual things because you have the mind of Christ. ¹³ ²⁶

This spiritual life is not only hard to live; it's impossible to live by your own efforts! Only Lord Jesus successfully did it! ²⁷ His promise, however, is He will live His post resurrection life in and through you if you let Him! ²⁸

He lives His life through you by His Holy Spirit. Listen to Romans, Chapter 8, verse 9, **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not **have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.**

¹¹ Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

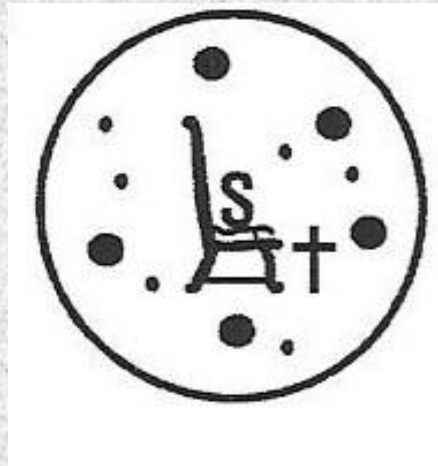
¹² Philippians 4:13 - I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

¹³ I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**

As we continue into Chapter 3, we discover another type of person . . . 29

III. The World Oriented Christian - 3:1-3

The world-oriented Christian. ¹⁴



So what kind of a person is this? ³⁰ He has invited Lord Jesus into his life but insists on sitting on the throne of his life himself. He wants to control things instead of letting Lord Jesus take over. Therefore the elements and issues in his life are distorted and disoriented. ³¹

He is a Christian who is more world oriented than he is Christ oriented. ³² You live an inconsistent Christian

¹⁴ ¹⁴ **Bright, Bill, The Four Spiritual Laws, Campus Crusade for Christ, 2007.**

life because you try to live it on your own efforts. ³³
Verse 1 ¹⁵ says you are spiritually immature. ³⁴ Verse 3
¹⁶ indicates that your life may not be different enough
from the world to be recognized as a Christian! If you
were to go on trial for being a Christian would there be
enough evidence to convict you? ³⁵

This is why this is the most dangerous type of person
to be. Many of you are in this position most of the
time. ³⁶ You think you have arrived in the Christian life
with no desire to mature in your Christian walk! You
were baptized and attend worship regularly. You
support ministry financially and participate in
workdays and social events. ³⁷

But God's word says you have a poor relationship
with God! Pay attention to Romans, Chapter 8, verses
7 and 8, **The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not
submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those**

¹⁵ 3:1 - Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ.

¹⁶ 3:3 - Brothers, You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. ³⁸
Your mind is against God's will! ³⁹ It is disobedient to
God's real law! ⁴⁰ Your mind doesn't please God! What
a terrible position to be in; and you may not even be
aware of it! ⁴¹

So the big question becomes; how can you change
from being a world-oriented Christian to being a
spiritual person? ⁴² Dr. Bill Bright coined a phrase
describing a biblical process. It's called "Spiritual
Breathing"! You need to take yourself off the throne of
your life and put Lord Jesus there!

When you breathe, you exhale bad air, and you inhale
good air. ⁴³ The first part of spiritual breathing is to
exhale by taking yourself off the throne of your life by
confessing your sins to God. Proverbs, Chapter 28,
verse 13, **He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds
mercy.** ⁴⁴ First John, Chapter 1, verse 9, **If we confess
our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** ⁴⁵

Who goes on the empty throne? Lord Jesus! Yield yourself again to Jesus as Lord! Romans, Chapter 12, verses 1 and 2 describe this process, **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.** You have a commitment to offer your lives as living sacrifices continuously by not conforming to the world but being transformed by the renewing of your mind. This is why getting into God's word as a way of life individually and routinely is so important. ⁴⁶

The second step to spiritual breathing is to inhale. Ask the Lord in prayer to come back into your life and take over that area you just confessed. The Bible calls that being filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke, Chapter 11, verse 13, gives you this promise, **If you then, though**

you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. ⁴⁷

The last step is to trust that He has! After all, it's His promise. Right? ^{17 48}

Then, continue to walk with the Lord by faith as a way of life just as consistently as you can! ⁴⁹

Colossians, Chapter 2, verses 6 and 7, relate, So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

That's the picture of the victorious Christian life!

<http://biblelifemessages.org>

¹⁷ I John 5:14-15 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.