Spirituality: The Greatest Need of the Church

I Corinthians 3:1-4

Introduction:
A. Greatest need of church is not buildings, parking, attendance, money, leadership, etc.
B. Greatest need of church is a spiritually minded membership.
   1. Lack of spirituality was at root Corinth's problems.
   2. Spirituality is not displaying a "holy look" and talking in a "holy tone"
   3. Spirituality is a mind attuned to spiritual and eternal welfare rather than fleshly and temporal.
C. Each member can diagnose himself for carnality or spirituality by a few simple tests:

Discussion:

I. The Pleasure Test (2 Thess 2:12; Ps. 1:2; 2 Cor 12:10).
   A. Carnal mind finds most pleasure in temporal things. (Rev. 3:17,18)
   B. Carnal mind finds little pleasure in spiritual exercise. (cf. Eph. 5:18,19)
      1. Worship must appeal to flesh.
      2. Religious activities must appeal to senses.
   C. Carnal mind is more comfortable in worldly rather than spiritual environment
      1. Enjoy people of world more than children of God.
      2. Enjoy trivial discussions more than religious discussions.
   D. Carnal mind enjoys questionable recreation more than wholesome.
      1. A joke is funnier if has dirty overtone.
      2. A party is more fun if a little dancing, drinking or carousing is injected.
      3. A contest is more interesting if a wager is placed. (cf. Rom. 13:9,10)
   E. Carnal mind seeks approval and attention of carnal minds. (1 Pet. 3:4)
      1. In way they dress.
      2. In way they talk and act.

II. The Justification Test (our text 1 Cor. 3:1-4; 4:6).
   A. Spiritual minds feel justified in faith and practice only if they know God approves it. (Mt. 28:18)
      1. Not family and friends
      2. Not preacher and parents.
   B. Spiritual minds look to the message more than messenger for justification (context of our text 1 Cor. 3:3-7; Acts 17:11)
   C. Spiritual minds can discern good and evil from Scriptural principle for justification. (Heb. 5:12-14).
      1. Every thing does not have to be spelled out in detail. (Cf. "and such like" - Gal. 5)
      2. No verse mentions modern dance, pot, gambling, mini-skirt, inst. music in worship etc.
      3. No verse mentions song books, meeting house, other facilities, etc.

III. The Priorities Test (Col. 3:1-2; 2 Cor. 4:18-5:1).
   A. Spiritual minds place going to heaven above physical and mental comfort. (cf. Heb. 11)
   B. Spiritual minds place the Kingdom of God above necessities of life. (Matt. 6:33)
   C. Spiritual minds place actively doing good above merely avoiding wrong. (Rom. 12:2,21; Jas. 4:17)
      1. "How far can I go without sinning?" or "How clear of sin can I stay?"
      2. "Unless a failure to do it sin, I will not do it"? or "If doing it is right and beneficial I will do it?"
   D. Spiritual minds place spiritual things above physical, social, economic or educational in choices.
      1. The selection of a mate.
      2. The selection of job, school, club, civic or recreation activity.

Conclusion:
A. Carnal mind thinks it is really living, when dead. (Rom. 8:6)
B. Carnal mind thinks spiritual is foolish. (1 Cor. 2:14).
C. Carnal mind is bored by repetitious spiritual exercises.