

1 Corinthians 3:1-9^{vi}

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

^{vi} **About the Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

In addition to adopting party designations (1:12), the Corinthians seem to have enjoyed categorizing one another's spiritual maturity. Paul informs the Corinthians that they are far from being as spiritually mature (2:6) as they think. Although they have received the Spirit in baptism and are thus implicitly "spiritual," their strife shows that they are not living out their true status. Instead they are living in the "flesh," like mere human beings.

Flesh, for Paul, is not the opposite of spirit; rather, flesh is what is human, weak, mortal, and liable to sin. Far from acting as if their lives were determined by the Spirit, the Corinthians' parties and labels show that they are determined by individual or human considerations.