

Growing Up: The Natural Man

(1 Corinthians 2:13-3:4; Ephesians 2:1-5)

Introduction.

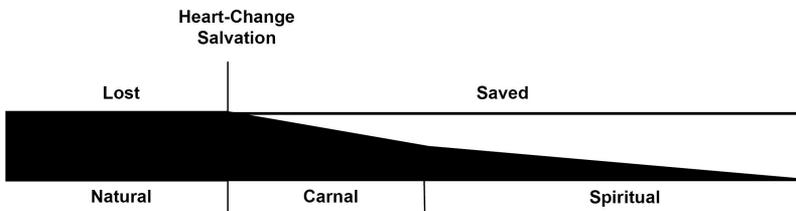
Do you ever wonder, “Why do people act the way they do?”

Why do seemingly rational, well-intentioned people suddenly commit a horrible crime? Why does a husband of 35 years suddenly abandon his family for a “new direction” in life? Why does a young single parent do the unthinkable and smother to death their new-born child? The list could go on!

Sometimes people make you scratch your head in dismay. Sometimes people make you want to pull out your hair in frustration. Sometimes people act so stupidly, you question if people couple stoop any lower . . . and then they do.

Contextualize 1 Corinthians 213-3:5; Eph. 2:1-5.

Contextualize this sermon in the Growing Up series.



I. The Natural Man's Attitude (1 Cor. 2:13-14a)

(The natural man rejects the things of God because of a lack of spiritual understanding. They are foolishness to him)

- A) Unconcerned about the favor of God
- B) Unable to understand the truths of God
- C) Unappreciative of the things of God

Why foolish? 1) They think it foolish that they cannot change their standing with God. 2) They grasp that salvation means relinquishing control of their life or surrender. 3) They rebel at the idea of bowing to Christ means living for Christ and not to please self.

When exposed to spiritual things they will either drop out, joke about, or lash out.

II. The Natural Man's Condition – 1 Cor. 2:14b, Eph. 2:1)

(The natural man has no awareness of his sinfulness as it relates to God, because he is dead in his sin.)

A) Man is a three part being (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

B) Natural men are only 2/3 alive.

III. The Natural Man's Influences (Eph. 2:2)

(The natural man is predominately influenced by his senses.)

A) Slave to his senses

B) Persuaded by society

C) Influenced by Satan

IV. The Natural Man's Focus (Eph. 2:3)

(The natural man is completely self-focused.)

A) Motivated by a self-focus.

B) Dominated by a self-focus.

Conclusion (Eph. 2:4)