

THE MILK AND MEAT OF THE WORD

Christian Character in Action Series: Lesson 6

1 April 2022

LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 Most Christians have a certain amount of knowledge of bible doctrines, which are foundational principles that can be learned by anybody. God wants you to go beyond that basic knowledge and become skillful in the word of RIGHTEOUSNESS (vs 13).

- *Foundational* bible knowledge (milk) will not help your marriage or your other relationships. It will merely help you win debates, teach facts, and correct others. You're using milk, but you're unskillful in the word of righteousness (12-13).
- One who is skillful in the word of righteousness (vs 13) goes beyond basic bible knowledge and begins to live a righteous life as taught in the word of God (1 Timothy 6:11, Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 19:19. 1 John 3:16, etc.).

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 The Corinthians church had a lot of bible knowledge (vs 5) and were very gifted (vs7).

- You might have a gift for memorizing scripture and learning the stories and the doctrines of the bible. That does not make you spiritual. It means you're able to learn facts.
- The believers at Corinth, though they had knowledge and gifts from God, were rebuked in every chapter that followed their initial praise in chapter 1.

1 Corinthians 3:1-15 The Corinthian believers could not handle spiritual teaching and had to be dealt with as those who were carnal and as those who were babes (vs 1). They were not able to bear meat (deeper spiritual matters in the scriptures).

- Notice the contrast between the *praise* in 1 Corinthians 1:4-7 and the *disappointment* in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2.
- Bible knowledge will not impress your lost friends, family members, and neighbors. They'll be watching how you treat your wife and kids, how you treat your co-workers, how you manage your home and finances, etc.

(Vs 3) The proof that you are yet carnal is that you don't get along with people. You're like a selfish babe who can't handle meat yet. You care more about yourself than you do others.

- Your problems in life are not the result of a lack of bible knowledge. They come from self-love and an unwillingness to sacrifice for the good of others.
- Even if you are a skillful bible teacher, people will not want to hear you preach or teach if they've observed you being offensive to others.

- Envy, strife, and divisions (vs 3) result from wanting to be the exalted one in the church, home, workplace, etc.
- (4-5) If you tend to lift up one man and tear down another, that is carnal behavior.
- (6-7) Instead, you ought to lift up Jesus Christ and be okay with being nothing yourself.
- (8-15) The context of these statements is: carnal versus spiritual, milk versus meat, people that can get along with other people for Christ VS people who can't get along with other people because they're concerned only for themselves.
- You may work hard serving the Lord, but at the Judgment Seat, the Lord is going to be interested in your motives and reasons and your ability to work with others for the furtherance of the gospel.
 - If you think you're too good to work with others or to listen to a preacher, all your hard work will burn up.

1 Cor 10:11-17

The Lord's Supper gives us an opportunity to remember the Lord's blood shed for us and His body broken for us on the cross.

- But notice also that it is the communion (unity, closeness, unbrokenness) of all those who partake of the Lord's Supper.
 - He was broken so we could be unbroken in one body.
 - We may have nothing else in common than the fact that Jesus bore our sins in His body and shed His blood to wash away those sins.
 - We're not going to agree on everything, but we need to be able to work together as one body toward the common goal of serving the Lord and saving the lost.

The milk: head knowledge.

The meat: the heart application of the doctrines of Christ that are worked out in our lives.

LET THE LORD WORK IN YOUR HEART, NOT JUST IN YOUR HEAD.