

Many young Christians start out their Christian walk with a worldly mindset of Life goals they want to accomplish. And how they are going to accomplish them.

But a Christian's primary focus is to equip himself **starting today**, for the judgment seat of Christ.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
14 For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

3.

The doctrine of Spiritual Gifts

Christians often get stuck trying to, or looking for someone to create the use of gifts in the back of their

▼ 1. Are you a spiritually minded believer or carnally minded believer ?

a. Let's allow God's word to correct our thinking:

Throughout this section 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Paul is calling attention to the fact that the one thing that is lacking in many of the Corinthian church members' spiritual life is **spirituality**

which would be demonstrated by love

They are the carnal Christians who are living their life like:

1 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, you are not carnal and behaving like **meat and drink**

they are operating on **enemies**. There is a **competition** in the congregation between spiritual gifts. There is no room for competition between spiritual gifts, **every spiritual gift is valuable** and you can't compete over them because it is not up to you what spiritual gift you have, or the degree to which you have it, that is up to God the Holy Spirit.

The issue is: how are you going to use that spiritual gift to serve the body of Christ?

What underlies the whole concept of Christian service is understanding the whole concept of love

In this section of 1 Corinthians Paul is showing a contrast between

the carnal/believer on the one hand and

the **spiritual/believer** on the other.

What is it that characterizes the life of the carnal/believer?

He is operating on the sin nature, and the key orientation of the sin nature is

self

one first, the other love is **second**

In contrast there is the **spiritual/believer**, the believer who is filled with the Spirit and is walking by means of the Spirit.

Too often people think negative religion is hostility to doctrine. The most negative people are not the ones who are hostile to doctrine **but the ones who are passive to doctrine.**

When you are not showing up for Bible study two or three times a week to take in the Word, you are hostile to doctrine.

Or perhaps you're showing up but seldom if ever truly engaged where you're allowing doctrine to transform your thinking, and it becomes previous to your soul **You're negatively hostile to doctrine**

What you are saying is **doctrine** isn't really important and that you can live your life without it.

In self-justification we develop all kinds of excuses for not being in Bible study. But we have deceived ourselves.

We think we are making it OK spiritually **because there aren't any serious problems** and we think that everything is going smoothly.

In self-deception you don't personalize doctrine when you hear it, your first thought is, that applies to somebody else. And when a spiritually minded believer challenges you with your lack of concern for doctrine, you react defensively in anger.

▼ 2. Gifts, and the purpose of our justification:

a. We are to walk according to God's fore-ordained plan:

Ephesians 4:1-12 (NKJV)

1 I, Paul, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.**

THIS IS THE PRIMARY WORD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT USED FOR THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

verb, active, indicative

this is to be the standard operating procedure for the believer's life

The calling here refers to the purpose for which we were saved.

verb, active, indicative

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