

Connect

Think about a time when you first started learning a new skill. What was challenging about it? How did you feel as you progressed from beginner to more advanced? Looking back, how do you feel about it now?

Verses - 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (CSB)

Read aloud:

For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, 3 because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans? 4 For whenever someone says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not acting like mere humans?

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In this passage, Paul describes the Corinthian church as "babes in Christ." What are some characteristics of spiritual immaturity that he identifies?

2. Why do you think envy, strife, and divisions are signs of the flesh? How do these things hinder spiritual growth?

3. Paul mentions that he "gave [them] milk and not solid food." How does this metaphor relate to spiritual growth? What might "solid food" represent in our spiritual lives?

4. Have you ever experienced or witnessed divisions in a church or Christian community? How did it affect the people involved?

5. The fleshly is opposed to the spiritual, as worldly is opposed to _____.

Share

Discuss this analogy from this week's message:

- Pastor Takeshi shared a personal story about his son who played sports and how he had to surrender his own desires for his son's future to God's will.

  When have you experienced a situation where you had to let go of your own plans and trust in God's plan, even when it was difficult?

Discuss:

- How can we practically apply the "wisdom of God" in our daily lives, whether we are at church, at home, at work, or at school? What are some specific steps we can take to "eat solid food" and grow in our faith?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.