

What is Spirituality, who is “spiritual”?

By Bob Young

Introduction

Spirituality is a word not used frequently in Scripture

The root of the word suggests that it has to do with the spirit, God’s spirit, spirit of Jesus, Holy Spirit

Interesting that the NT book that mentions spirituality most frequently is a book that is corrective—1 Corinthians

In 1 Corinthians, the opposite of spirituality is worldliness

“You are worldly,” there are two words: fleshly, sarkikos; natural or physical, psuchikos

Think with me about the context and content of 1 Corinthians.

Marks of carnality (fleshly), 3

- 1 milk drinker, not meat eater, 3:2
- 2 incapable of accepting meat, 3:2
- 3 envy and strife, 3:3
- 4 walk as man, 3:3
- 5 divisive, 3:4

Two areas exhibit worldliness and carnality (which are the opposite of spirituality), 5-6-7

Immorality Problems

...The man with his father's wife

...Taking advantage of one another at law

...Immorality with the temple prostitutes

Marital Problems

...Begins with the opposite attitude as the immorality problem

...The desire to remain true and pure

These focus the problem of carnality among the Corinthians

SO....

What Is Spirituality? Five major concepts can be seen.

How you treat others, 3:1ff

Attitudes toward Christ's Lordship, 12:3ff

Relationship to one another in the body, 12:14ff

Demonstrating love, 13:1ff

Building up rather than tearing down, 14:19ff

Respect for Scripture, 14:37ff