

# Reality—Carnal or Spiritual?

## Lesson 5 – Teacher's Guide

1. Carnal-mindedness is allowing our minds to be dominated by what we can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel (Rom. 8:6). "Carnal" literally means "of the five senses," or "sensual." Carnal-mindedness doesn't necessarily mean "sinful"-mindedness. We are carnally minded when our thoughts center primarily on the physical realm.
2. Spiritual-mindedness releases the flow of God's life in us, but carnal-mindedness shuts it off. Carnal mindedness = death, and spiritual mindedness = life and peace. "Death" means "anything that's a result of sin." In this fallen world, being dominated by our natural senses produces death.
3. When our thoughts are dominated by what the Word says, we're spiritually minded (John 6:63). It doesn't matter what our physical circumstances may be—God can keep us in perfect peace (Is. 26:3). As our minds stay on Him, our souls agree with our spirits, and God's peace is released into our souls and bodies.
4. We, as believers, shouldn't live like lost people, who are trapped in their carnal, physical world (Eph. 4:17). A "Gentile" was a non-Jew, someone not in covenant relationship with God. Unbelievers don't use their minds to perceive spiritual truth.

1. A. According to Romans 8:6, what does carnal-mindedness produce? (Death)  
B. What does spiritual-mindedness produce? (Life and peace)  
C. Is sinful-mindedness and carnal-mindedness the same thing? (No)  
D. When are we carnally minded? (When our thoughts center primarily on the physical realm)
2. A. What releases the flow of God's life in us? (Spiritual-mindedness)  
B. What shuts off the flow of God's life in us? (Carnal-mindedness)
3. A. Read John 6:63. What are spirit and life? (The words Jesus has spoken to us)  
B. According to Isaiah 26:3, how can we be kept in perfect peace? (By keeping our minds stayed on God)  
C. As our minds stay on Him, what happens? (Our souls agree with our spirits and God's peace is released into our souls and bodies)
4. A. Lost people are trapped in what? (Their carnal, physical world)  
B. According to Ephesians 4:17, do unbelievers use their minds to perceive spiritual truth? (No)

5. If we don't renew our minds and use them to study and meditate God's Word, they'll automatically gravitate toward what we can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel (Eph. 4:18). The knowledge of God is critical, but must be understood to be useful. Without understanding, we can't release the life in it.

When we walk like unbelievers, we get the same results—death. When our understanding is darkened, we are alienated from the life of God within us through ignorance (Eph. 4:18). Most of us live our lives separated from the life of God within, due to our own ignorance of spiritual truth.

6. Lasciviousness is being controlled by what we feel (Eph. 4:19). Most people have gone beyond simply receiving sensory input to being dominated by it. Feelings were designed to follow what we think, not lead the way.

5. A. Read Ephesians 4:18. The knowledge of God is critical, but in order to be useful must be \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Understood)
- B. When a believer's understanding is darkened, they are? (Alienated from the life of God within them through ignorance)
6. A. What is lasciviousness? (Being controlled by what we feel)
- B. Were feelings designed to lead our thoughts or follow them? (Follow them)

# Reality—Carnal or Spiritual?

## Lesson 5 – Outline

1. Carnal-mindedness is allowing your mind to be dominated by what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel.  
  

**“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6).**

  - A. “Carnal” literally means “of the five senses,” or “sensual.”
  - B. Carnal-mindedness doesn’t necessarily mean “sinful”-mindedness.
  - C. You are carnally minded when your thoughts center primarily on the physical realm.
2. Spiritual-mindedness releases the flow of God’s life in you, but carnal-mindedness shuts it off.
  - A. Carnal-mindedness = death, and spiritual-mindedness = life and peace.
  - B. “Death” means “anything that’s a result of sin.”
  - C. In this fallen world, being dominated by your natural senses produces death.
3. When your thoughts are dominated by what the Word says, you’re spiritually minded.  
  

**“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).**

  - A. It doesn’t matter what your physical circumstances may be—God can keep you in perfect peace.  
  

**“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Is. 26:3).**
  - B. As your mind stays on Him, your soul agrees with your spirit, and God’s peace is released into your soul and body.
4. Believers shouldn’t live like lost people, who are trapped in their carnal, physical world.  
  

**“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind” (Eph. 4:17).**

  - A. “Gentile” was a non-Jew, someone not in covenant relationship with God.
  - B. Unbelievers don’t use their minds to perceive spiritual truth.
5. If you don’t renew your mind and use it to study and meditate God’s Word, it will automatically gravitate toward what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel.

**“Having the understanding darkened”** (Eph. 4:18).

- A. The knowledge of God is critical, but must be understood to be useful.
  - B. Without understanding, you can't release the life in it.
6. When a Christian walks like an unbeliever, they get the same results—death.
- A. When a believer's understanding is darkened, they are alienated from the life of God within them through ignorance.

**“Alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart”** (Eph. 4:18).

- B. Most Christians live their lives separated from the life of God within due to their own ignorance of spiritual truth.
7. Lasciviousness is being controlled by what you feel.

**“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness”** (Eph. 4:19).

- A. Most people have gone beyond simply receiving sensory input to being dominated by it.
- B. Feelings were designed to follow what you think, not lead the way.

# Reality—Carnal or Spiritual?

## *Lesson 5 – Discipleship Questions*

1. According to Romans 8:6, what produces death?
2. What produces life and peace?
3. A spiritually minded person thinks on?
4. A carnally minded person thinks on?
5. Who was speaking in John 6:63?
6. What are spirit and life?
7. According to Isaiah 26:3, who keeps us in perfect peace?
8. In order to do that, what does He first require of us?
9. Ephesians 4:17 states that believers should not \_\_\_\_\_ as other Gentiles (unbelievers) \_\_\_\_\_, in the vanity of their mind.
10. According to Ephesians 4:18, an unbeliever's understanding is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. They are alienated from what?
12. Why?
13. Ephesians 4:19 says that this kind of person is given over to \_\_\_\_\_, which is being dominated by their natural senses and feelings.
14. In this state, they \_\_\_\_\_ all uncleanness with \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Who is the first half of 1 Peter 2:24 speaking about?
16. Who is the second half of 1 Peter 2:24 speaking about?
17. What are we dead to?

# Reality—Carnal or Spiritual?

## *Lesson 5 – Answer Key*

1. Carnal-mindedness.
2. Spiritual-mindedness.
3. God and His Word.
4. Natural things.
5. Jesus.
6. Jesus' words.
7. God.
8. That we keep our minds stayed on Him, trusting Him.
9. Walk, walk.
10. Darkened.
11. The life of God.
12. Because of the ignorance that is in them and the blindness of their hearts.
13. Lasciviousness.
14. Work, greediness.
15. Jesus Christ.
16. Believers.
17. Sins.

# Reality—Carnal or Spiritual?

## *Lesson 5 – Scriptures*

**“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6).**

**“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).**

**“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Is. 26:3).**

**“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:17-19).**

**“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet. 2:24).**

**“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:18-20).**