

## SPIRITUAL HIERARCHY

1Corinthians 2:10-3:3

Vv. 2:14-16: “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.

Who is equal to such a task?”

St. Paul’s sermon to the Corinthians booms in our ears today. Spiritual and physical realm accommodations (ac-COM-o-DA-shons, meaning living space or place) range from mansions to crude lean-to shelters. Each person falls into one of three categories that constitute the levels of spiritual hierarchy:

1. The **Natural Man** level is for every person who has not accepted Christ as Savior. Many in this category are capable of performing good works, and are respected—even adored. Numerous philanthropists (fil-AN-thro-pists, meaning generous humanitarians) fall into this category. Several well-known humanitarians (hu-MAN-i-TARE-I-ans, meaning charitable people) belong here. But because they remain unforgiven, they are separated from the Lord. They are not part of God’s family. The Holy Spirit does not dwell within them, and they cannot understand the things of God.
2. The **Spiritual Man** is the group of Christian believers who are filled with the Holy Spirit, and have surrendered to His control. Although no person in this level is perfect, each one is quick to recognize transgressions, and confess sin. Their repentance is genuine, and they strive to maintain hearts in perfect working order. The Holy Spirit guides their lives in wisdom and understanding. Their eyes remain focused on Christ.
3. The **Flesh Man** describes believers who juggle living between two worlds. One foot is planted in the Spiritual realm; the other keeps toes dipped inside the natural realm—not willing to let go of worldly desires. At salvation,

believers are remade in a new nature, with God's Spirit guiding from within. Although Jesus is steering, some cannot discard sinful urges in their lives--quenching the Spirit within.

Every person falls into one of these categories. After careful evaluation, in which one does your soul dwell? Is your residence a mansion or crude shelter? Does this please you?

### **Take Home Nugget**

The Lord will help you move to the category of your choice. He waits patiently for you to seek Him. He's thrilled when His children want a closer relationship with Him. He invites you to move into His mansion, living in peaceful security.

*No place is more secure than abiding in Christ.*

Dedicated to Daughter, Amanda Kugel, on her 30th Birthday.

J.D. Griffith