

TRAITS OF THE CARNAL MIND

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"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Rom. 8:7&8.

The human mind is an mortal body not yet surrendered to God. We awesome part of our body very much controlled by the flesh and human nature. The entire chapter of Romans points out the battle between the mind and the Spirit. The sinner is controlled by the desires of a believers however, are quickened by the spirit, as He dwells within us. We are led by the Spirit, and should mortify the deeds of the body. This power within us is made possible through the Holy Spirit, who bears witness that we are the sons of God. However, the mind of a believer can be guilty of operating occasionally in mental defeats, that are a part of the old body. Let me tell you some of these hangover traits that still trip a careless believer. Careful study reveals the carnal mind can result in a number of worldly responses, in our day by day actions. We'll begin with **(1). Secret Pride:** *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall".* Prov. 16:18. This can come from a persons position, training, looks, and abilities. Be very careful of self glorification, and the idea you are better than others. Boast not on the training you have received, or whatever labors you have put into serving God. Remember good looks is only skin deep and should not prompt looking down on others. The abilities God has given you should not be a matter of boast, but humbly used for His glory. This one often leads to **(2). A Love Of Praise:** *"For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God".* John 12:43. In many, there is a desire for supremacy in the pecking order. It is very easy for the

flesh to think ones self better than another. You all know people that seem to look down with an aloof attitude upon others. Often they love to draw attention to themselves, their service at church, or their family. You can often spot them beaming as someone titillates their prideful ways. Now which of us do not have a problem with **(3). Anger And Impatience:** James 1: 19&20 *"Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."* James 1:19&20. Some folks are touchy and super sensitive, easily hurt and wear their feelings on their sleeves. Be sure you are not the kind of a Christian that gets upset easily. Discard the short fuze that was constantly ready to be verbally lighted. Many a church has been hurt by an angry, impatient member so very upset and vocal. Wisdom calls for us to listen, and consider our utterings that they be pleasing to God. Another trait is **(4). A Stubborn Self Will:** *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."* Samuel warned Saul that his use of the Word would affect how the people respond to him. A stubborn self willed person always develops an unteachable spirit, and seems harsh and headstrong. Many a church business meeting has been interrupted as stubborn words were thrown about. Brethren these things ought not to be.. Notice the Lord calls it idolatry to think we know best and all others are wrong, The mind of some believers is plagued by **(5). A Fearful Spirit:** *"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."* Psalms 56:11. We are taught to fear God with great respect and honor, but not man. Fearing man often leads to spineless compromises, putting men's will ahead of Gods commands. Be sure not to shrink from your duty, and whatever you tackle remember He promised to be with you always. Someone has said the only thing to fear is fear itself. We are to arm ourselves in prayer, and

do our best to please God, and be a good example to others. **(6). A Jealous Disposition:** *"He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings. I Tim. 6:4.* A critical, fault finding spirit of envy, can seriously affect ones acceptance, and fellowship with others. Some folks seem to be always on the other side of the coin Why did they choose him instead of me? I am far more qualified and I can't stand looking at them. My family, my abilities ,are certainly better than theirs. It is in the eyes of God, not man, that we are fully judged. Next be very careful of **(7). Lustful Desires:** *"Never the less the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his, And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." II Tim. 2:19.* Dear young people, and all others are warned to *"Keep thyself pure". II Tim. 2:22.* Constantly I am preaching the warning that your visual diet will affect your daily spiritual health. Most of the mass entertainment media centers on immortality, and profanity, and crime with it's disregard for decency. Watching and reading evil is deadly pollution to your life, and your family. Your mind, like a sponge, soaks up whatever you dip it into. Next beware **(8). Dishonesty And Deceit:** *"Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another." Lev. 19:11.* The covering of faults, hiding the truth, and exaggeration, are very common in politics and world actions today. We are all sick of the falseness and sneak actions of today's government. We search for truth while they drown us with lies. So much for Godless human government, but in the believers environment it should not be. We must strive for honesty, and avoid all deceit and lying. This shows the world there is a better way they can walk. Our mind can be **(9). Guilty Of Unbelief:** *" Take heed, brethren, lest there be any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."*

Nothing can more quickly ruin your faith like unbelief. You were saved by faith, the lack of which will ruin that faith. Don't be overanxious and overcome with discouragement. If God promised it, believe it without hesitation. The Word of God is without question through the ages proven to be true. Not once did anyone that trusted it and obeyed it's commands has failed. Feed your faith by faithful daily devotions, and a child like total faith in your heavenly Father. I have three more traits to squeeze into our time. **(10). Indifference:** *"And of some have compassion, making a difference:" Jude 22.* Selfishness and the love of ease, often results in a no burden life toward others. Our friends will not be won by our mechanical actions of faith. They will have to see that we care, and our evidence of our concern for them. An indifferent Christian who can live selfishly in this world of woe and do nothing, is a disgrace to Christianity. Come dear ones, get back in church, understand the plight of sinners, and do something to reach them. **(11). Stinginess:** *"But this I say, he that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." II Cor. 9:6.* Of all the inhabitants on this earth we Christians should be the most caring and giving. We don't live in our private little bottle of religious friends. We are in the world, but not to be of the world. Don't be stingy with what God has given you but share in the needs of others. **(12). Sectarianism:** *"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal. and walk as men." I Cor. 3:3.* We must not allow ourselves to be narrow and clannish. Refuse childish splits among our church members. Don't boast you are from the right hand side of the congregation and ridicule the left side. Keep a warm heart, without compromise toward all believers, for one day we will walk the streets of Heaven together. **Beware the Carnal Mind:**