

# CARNAL MIND

By Randy Nusbaum

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." "..let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. (James 1:7,8)

For leaders of a church it is indeed frustrating to have carnal members because they are unstable and you cannot count on them to be faithful in anything. They will get involved in a ministry and show up sometimes or get mad and not show up and next week show up like nothing happened. This is irritating to leaders, but to God it is an abomination and they are His enemy.

There is a saying now in which people say, "ignorance is bliss." It is a cover for them to hide under. These people do not like the day in and day out responsibility of being faithful to the Lord, and so they glory in being unstable and resist any attempt to set them straight. These people do not really understand what tool place at the cross. The terminology they use is "a given life" when referring to the work of the cross. The words Jesus uses is "a lost life." We are not to give our life to the Lord but to lose our life. To give it means we can take it back again if we do not feel like giving it today. Jesus said, "...whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." (Luke 19:23) A lost life refers to the living sacrifice of Romans 12:1,2. The high priest in the old testament would prepare and place the sacrifice on the altar, and the fire would fall from heaven and consume it. If he tried to give it and then take it back, he also would be destroyed. If it were already consumed, then he could not take it back. The carnal believer's understanding is not such. He gives his life and takes it if he gets offended or is not in the mood or does not like the particular area he is working in. The carnal believer never takes the sacrifice to the altar because he knows it will be taken and he is not ready to do this. He does not really want to do this!! He is looking for the perfect altar and the perfect group of people. There will be nothing perfect about the place you lose your life. Jesus had thieves on each side of him and gamblers below him and revilers in front of him. It is not the place or the people that make the sacrifice acceptable but the losing of the life of the sacrifice, for if you lose it you will gain it unto eternal life. That is the one thing that the carnal believer will not give up and lose and that is his life, so that his giving of his life is never acceptable. He may go to church as much as anyone and be involved as much, but he is enmity with God. He is a setback to the ministry of the church and an irritation to the leaders of the church, but he is an abomination to God.

The carnal believer wonders why God does not straighten out his wife, husband, or his children or give him a better job or raise him to a higher level of ministry or give him a deeper knowledge of the Lord. If God cannot trust you with that which is least, how can he entrust you with the riches of the kingdom? Because the double-minded man is unstable, let him not think that he shall receive anything from the Lord. Church leaders may cater to carnal members and go out of their way to soothe hurt feelings,

but the lord says that unless they become single-minded and lay down their life, they shall not receive looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." (Hebrews 10:26,27) It is not the sinner that is God's adversary, but the carnal mind is at enmity. The minds of the carnal must be renewed by the deeper knowledge of the Lord that only the Holy Spirit can give (I Corinthians 2:10). Only then will stability come to lives, and then the church can carry on the ministry that depends on the faithfulness of each individual, and the Lord will be glorified in the church.\*\*\*