

#4: THE PROBLEM OF CONFUSING CHRISTIAN CARNALITY

I. EXPLAINING THE CONTROVERSY

II. EVALUATING THE CONTROVERSY?

A. The PROBLEMS... *"How Does the Teaching of 'Lordship Salvation' Line Up With Scripture?"*

1. Lordship Salvation _____ by mixing your works with Christ's finished work, destroying salvation 'by grace'.
2. Lordship Salvation _____ alone by requiring for salvation the turning from sin, total surrender to Christ's Lordship /Mastery, and a lifelong commitment to be obedient to Christ.

c) "commitment" to Christ (2 Timothy 1:12)

The issue in salvation is not one of making some promise & pledge to God to do something for Him, but involves _____ your eternal destiny to Jesus Christ whom you have trusted to save you.

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed {perfect, active, indicative of *pisteuo*} and am persuaded {perfect, passive, indicative of *peitho*} that He is able to keep what I have committed {*ten paratheken* - entrusted as a deposit} to Him until that Day.

MacArthur teaching on 1 Peter 1:2: *And, beloved, the point I'm making here is if you want to be a self-disciplined person you must go back and remember the pledge that you made at the very beginning and be a person with integrity, be a person who keeps his word, have the integrity to keep the promise you made when you came to Christ. We were all so eager when we came to Christ to get the forgiveness, right? We were so desperate in our sin we wanted the forgiveness, we wanted heaven, we wanted to avoid hell, we wanted hope and grace and mercy and love and joy and blessing. And it seemed an easy thing to say, "Yes, I'll commit my life to Christ. Yes, I'll obey gladly." And as time goes on we forget the pledge we made and we begin to forfeit our integrity and we become enamored with sin and fail to keep the covenant with the Lord who, by the way, never violates His covenant with us, right? Never. And I might add that somewhere in the New Covenant operation there is still the principle that if you obey Me I'll bless you, and if you don't I'll chasten you. And God will keep His bargain perfectly. Self-discipline starts when you understand who owns you and you have enough integrity to be true to the pledge you made to Christ. (Fundamental Christian Attitudes: Self Discipline, Part 1)*

MacArthur: *"Self-discipline comes when you look back to the covenant of your salvation; that is to say when you remember that at the point of your salvation you made a promise to submit to the Lord. You made a pledge at that time to be obedient to Christ. You confessed Him as Lord and Lord means that He is above all. . . . It's essential then as believers to remember that we made a covenant of obedience when we confessed Jesus as Lord. We were saved unto obedience which God had before ordained that we should walk and obedience characterized by good works and obedience to God's Word. That pledge was inherent in salvation. God at the time you came to Him for salvation promised you forgiveness and eternal life and all the grace necessary to fulfill His will, and the Holy Spirit, and you pledged obedience. And you need to go back and remember that and have the integrity to be faithful to your original promise."* ("Fundamental Christian Attitudes: Self-Discipline, Part 2," transcription. See www.gty.org/MediaPlayer/sermons/90-131 (accessed March 16, 2012).

Ryrie: *"The importance of this question cannot be overestimated in relation to both salvation and sanctification. The message of faith only and the message of faith plus commitment of life cannot both be the gospel; therefore, one of them is false and comes under the curse of perverting the Gospel or preaching another gospel."* (Balancing the Christian Life, pg.170)

- Do the Scriptures teach "easy believism" and "cheap grace"?

"Easy believism" is used in two ways:

Grace is not cheap because

- Were these individuals in John 2:23-24 genuinely born again? (John 20:30-31)
- Were these individuals in John 12:42-34 truly saved? How do you know?

3. Lordship salvation _____ by denying its ongoing possibility and reality, while then living with blatant contradictions in several examples and passages.

- What do the adherents of Lordship Salvation teach regarding "the carnal Christian"?

In Scripture, the words carnal and fleshly most often refer to unsaved people and not Christians. The carnal mind as referred to in Romans 8:5-8 directly defies God, which is not at all characteristic of a true believer. There-fore, a "carnal Christian" is a contradiction in terms. (emphasis added) There may be Christians who fall into sin and act car-nally, but carnality is predominantly characterized by unbelievers, because they are totally unable to please God (c£ Heb. 11:6). Hebrews 12:14 declares that no man will see the Lord without holiness.

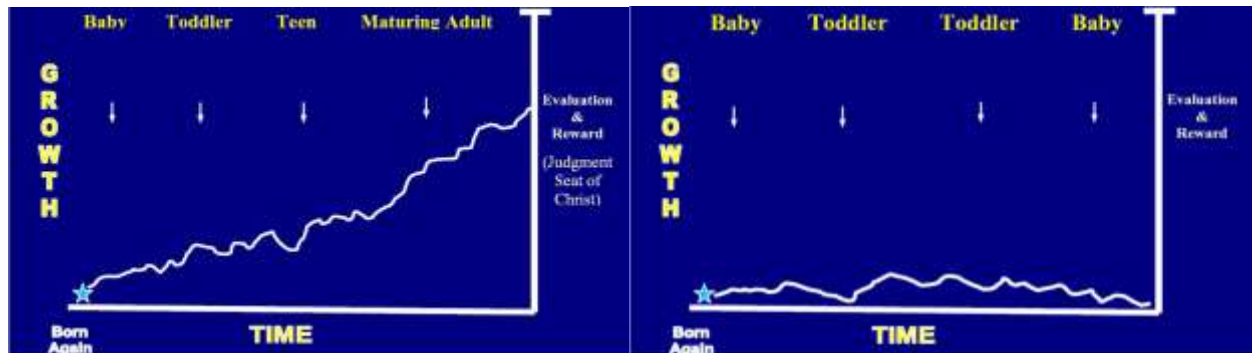
If a person's life is not characterized by righteousness, the entire book of 1 John declares that he is not truly saved. The person with a disobedient nature is not walking in the Spirit and may therefore not even possess the Spirit—in which case he is not a Christian (Rom. 8:9). Submis-sion to the will of God, to Christ's lordship, and to the guiding of the Spirit is an essential, not optional, part of true saving faith.

True Christians—those with genuine faith—will not be content with being in a "carnal" category. They will not be satisfied with remaining in a state of habitual disobe-dience. A person who has no desire for obedience has no legitimate claim on salvation. John MacArthur, "Why 'Carnal Christian' Is a Contradiction," Grace To You. Winter 1998, Vol. 2, No. 1, pg. 3.

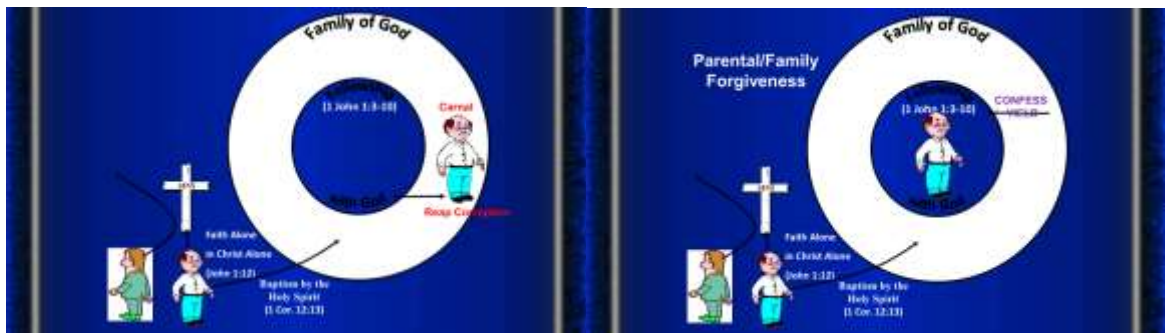
- What is the double talk of LS?
- Is there such a thing as a carnal Christian? (1 Cor. 3)
 - a. The carnal Christian is a biblical _____ you must face and understand as established by the use of the word "carnal" ___ x in ___ verses. (1 Cor. 3:1-4)
 - b. The carnal Christian needs to be distinguished from the _____ man (unsaved) & the _____ believer. (1 Corinthians 2:14–3:1)

THE 3 CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE				
THE NAMES	RELATIONSHIP TO GOD	THEIR ASSETS	THEIR PROBLEM	CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS
NATURAL	UNSAVED	NONE	Has NO CAPACITY for spiritual TRUTH	NEGATIVE ATTITUDE toward spiritual TRUTH
SPIRITUAL	SAVED	• IN CHRIST • INDWELT by the HOLY SPIRIT	NONE	POSITIVE ATTITUDE toward spiritual TRUTH
CARNAL	SAVED	• IN CHRIST • INDWELT by the HOLY SPIRIT	CONTROLLED by the OLD SIN NATURE rather than by the HOLY SPIRIT	DISOBEDIENCE to GOD'S WORD; walks like an UNBELIEVER

- c. The carnal Christian possesses a wonderful eternal _____ while having a woeful temporary _____. (1 Corinthians 3:1)
- d. The carnal Christian will lack anticipated spiritual _____ or will _____ in his growth instead of making steady _____ in their spiritual maturity. (1 Cor. 3:1-2)



- e. The carnal Christian may exist in this condition due to _____ or persist due to _____. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3a)
- f. The carnal Christian will be characterized by the _____ instead of the _____ in his daily walk. (1 Corinthians 3:3b)
- g. The carnal Christian will conduct himself in such a way that he is thinking and behaving like an _____. (1 Corinthians 3:3c)
- h. The carnal believer may be living in serious _____ needing honest personal evaluation as the Corinthians had the gifts of the Spirit but lacked the fruit of the Spirit. (1 Cor. 3:4)
- What were some of the many problems that these carnal Corinthian believers were having in their Christian lives or sanctification process? (1 Corinthians; 2 Cor. 12:20-21) There were such problems as ...
 - Though carnality characterized these believers, did Paul still think they were saved by God's grace? (1 Cor. 1:1-2, 7-10, 30, 3:1; 2 Cor. 1:21, 5:17) _____ How many times does Paul refer to the Corinthians as "brethren" in spite of their carnality and sins? _____ x



- Does God discipline believers who persist in sin, even severe discipline? (1 Cor. 5; 11:30-32; Heb. 11:5-15; 1 John 5:16-17)
- Is it possible for a believer to persist in carnality and receive no reward at the judgment seat of Christ? Does this mean they were not (in the past), or will not (in the future) be saved? (1 Cor. 3:11-15)

