

**Comfort Zones**  
Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.**

- Paul didn't expect the Corinthians to be mature in Christ at the time of conversion.
- By placing their faith in Christ, they had been justified.
- They were considered righteous before God because of Jesus righteousness.
- Yet he expected them to grow in their faith.
- So he was surprised that on his return they had not yet grown into spiritual maturity.
- They were unable to distinguish between evil and good.

**Hebrews 5:12 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.**

**1. Question: Am I a contributor or a consumer?**

- **Vs. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers**
- Am I coming to church simply for what I can get out of it? (Consumer)
- Or have I graduated and progressed to a place where I am now a contributor?

**2. Question: Am I eating meat or drinking milk?**

- **Vs. 12-13 You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.**
- Milk demonstrates dependence
- There should come a time in the natural progression of spiritual growth where we go from "**I know WHAT I believe**" to "**I know WHY I believe it**".
- Meat demonstrates Independence

**3. Question: Can I discern truth from Error?**

- **VS. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have (POWER OF DISCERNMENT) trained themselves (BY CONSTANT PRACTICE) to distinguish good from evil.**

**May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.**

**May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.**

**May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain in to joy.**

**May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.**

**A Fransican Blessing**