

What *is*
Spirituality?

1 Cor. 1:11, “For it has been declared to me ... that there are contentions among you.

1 Cor. 1:12 ... “that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ.’ ”

1 Cor. 3:21, “Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

1 Cor. 3:22, “whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.”

Contemporary Spirituality

1. 90% of Americans claim to believe in “god.”
2. 1994-58% needed spiritual growth; 1999-78% needed spiritual growth. 43% said their interest in spirituality had increased recently.
3. Three Reasons:
 - a. Profit motive
 - b. Smorgasbord definition: anything can be spiritual
 - c. The uniquely modern idea of the “self”

Contemporary Spirituality

“It is the new lingua franca. It’s the experiential aspect of religion, something deeply felt. Each person seems to have his or her own, and it has an incredibly wide appeal right now.”

~Carl Roof, UC Berkeley

Contemporary Spirituality

“People want religion, but most people don’t want the disciplines, exactions, and commitment that go with it. For them the answer is what I call secular spirituality or seeking spirituality. Which doesn’t exact any of that. It’s religion with all the things that you don’t like taken out.”

~Martin Marty, Univ. Chicago

Contemporary Spirituality

“...The trend is to trust what we believe, what we can know from our experience and spirituality is ultimately about experience. The danger with this is that this can produce a spirituality mainly associated with the needs and satisfactions of the individual...”

“Attaining a certain level of spiritual awareness then becomes a kind of consumer item I’ve got what I want materially, a BMW or whatever, and spirituality too.”

~Marcus Borg, “Jesus Scholar”

1 Cor. 2:15, “But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man.”

1 Cor. 1:17, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

1 Cor. 1:18, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Cor. 1:20

Where is the philosopher?

**Where is the scribe [the Jewish
legalist]?**

Where is the debater of this age?

1 Cor. 1:21, “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

1 Cor. 1:23, “but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,”

1 Cor. 1:25, “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

1 Cor. 2:1, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

1 Cor. 2:2, “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

1 Cor. 2:7, “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

1 Cor. 2:8, “which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

**cf., Matt. 12:32, Luke 16:8
2 Cor. 4:4 cf., John 12:31**

**1 Cor. 2:9, “but just as it is written,
‘Things which eye has not seen and ear
has not heard, and which have not
entered the heart of man, all that God
has prepared for those who love Him.’ ”**

[Isa. 52:15; 64:4]

1 Cor. 2:10, “For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches *all things*, even the depths of God.

1 Cor 2:11, “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God [*to pneuma tou Theou*].”

1 Cor. 2:12, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God [to pneuma EK tou theou] *human not HOLY Spirit*], so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1 Cor. 2:13, “which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”

1 Cor. 2:14, “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

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ψυχικο", *psuchikos*

Soulish

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ψυξικΟ", *psuch*

Soulish,

πνεύμα μη; ε[ξοντε",

Pneuma me echontes,

Not having spirit

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Heb. 4:12, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

1 Thess. 5:23, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

14, “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually [human spirit] appraised.”

ἀνακρίνω (*anakrinō*)

“to investigate, to examine”

Acts 17:11, Bereans examined Scripture

Acts 24:8, Judicial investigation

1 Cor. 2:15, “But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man.”

1 Cor. 2:16, “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Cor. 3:1, “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

1 Cor. 3:2, “I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

1 Cor. 3:3, “for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”

1 Cor. 3:16, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”