

BELIEVERS PROGRESS

II Peter 3:18

THE DEAD BELIEVER

Revelation 3:1 The first type of 'believer' is one that is a 'believer' in name only. They think they are a Christian because they go to church on Sunday morning. Maybe they have been baptized and even joined the church. However, they show no signs of growth, service, giving or a changed life. Notice that Jesus tells most of those in this church that He will “spue them out of His mouth.”

Rev. 3:17; Is. 64:6 Jesus rebukes them for trying to stand upon their works and goodness when they say they have need of nothing. He tells them that they are poor and wretched, and miserable.

Rev. 3:17; Mat. 22:11-14 Jesus continues and calls them “naked” which means that they do not have any garments of righteousness and will surly be rejected when they die and meet God.

Rev. 3:17; Ep. 4:18 Jesus also tells them that they are “blind” which when used in a spiritual context means they are lost without any spiritual vision or knowledge.

Rev. 3:19-20 The only hope in this church is verse 19 in that though Jesus is on the outside He may be referring to a few people that are saved but He warns them to get out of this dead church and repent.

THE CARNAL BELIEVER

Galatians 5:13 The second type of believer makes up most of the church today and that is the carnal Christian. This believer is one that shows up to church and is pretty faithful to services but is weak.

I John 2:15-16 The very reason John wrote these things is that God knows the pull of sin, the world, the flesh, envy, and pride will basically influence every Christian and most will succumb to the sin.

Galatians 5:17 Paul warns us in his Epistles of the spiritual warfare that we are part of as soon as we become believers. The reason we fall into sin is because we are mostly living in the flesh not the Spirit.

I Corinthians 3:1-3 Paul had a lot to say to the Corinthians about their immaturity. These few verses show that believers can and do live in jealousy, strife, and division toward each other. Baby believers!

THE LONER BELIEVER

Hebrews 10:23-25 The third type of believer is the loner Christian. They are true Christians who enjoy fellowship with the Lord, they read and study their bible and pray. However, they are keeping their fellowship and blessings to themselves which is sin according to the bible.

John 21:15-17 One of the last things Jesus told Peter to do was to use his spiritual knowledge of Jesus to teach and help other believers to grow in Christ. A loner believer isn't helping anyone!

I Corinthians 12:1, 4-7, 14, 25 We are all blessed with some spiritual gift or gifts. God makes it very plain that these gifts were given for the building up of the believers within the church. When we do not use our gift for the members we are leaving a wound within the local body of believers.

THE MATURE BELIEVER

Ephesians 2:10 The fourth and final type of believer is the one who takes to heart that we are born again to show forth the praises and love that Jesus Christ has for everyone. This person knows their gift and ready to use it for the betterment of the local church and for those believers in the fellowship.

Matthew 5:16 The mature believer is not a Christian just in church but in their every day life others can see that they are Christian at work, in their neighborhood, and never ashamed of the Lord Jesus.

I Corinthians 16:13 The mature Christian is aware of evil, always willing to stand for Christ and stays strong in the faith by staying in God's word, in much prayer and in every service at church.