

THE ANEMIC CHRISTIAN

I Cor. 11:30

INTRODUCTION:

1. If I may be permitted a diagnosis of the principle malady afflicting churches and their members, I would say "ANEMIA".
2. "Anemia" -- what is it? Literally, it means "no blood".
 - (1) It is a condition in which the red corpuscles of the blood are reduced in number or deficient in hemoglobin.
 - (2) Symptoms: Paleness, shortness of breath and palpitations of the heart.
 - (3) It is a synonym for WEAKNESS
3. In this lesson we are not interested in physical anemia, but spiritual anemia.

I. THE POSSIBILITY OF SPIRITUAL ANEMIA

1. New Testament congregations had weak members
 - (1) The church at Rome had weak members -- Rom. 14:1; Rom. 15:1
 - (2) The church at Corinth had its anemic members -- I Cor. 11: 30; 8:11
 - (3) The church at Thessalonica had its weak members -- I Thess. 5:14
2. Other terms which describe the anemic Christian:
 - (1) He is one with a divided allegiance; no conviction -- Matt. 6:24; 12: 30
 - (2) He is one with a slow pace; no purpose -- Gal. 5:7
 - (3) He is one with a lukewarm devotion; no fervor -- Rev. 3:16; 2:4
3. Spiritual anemia is spiritual immaturity
 - (1) Some of the Corinthians were babies -- carnal and immature -- I Cor. 3: 1 - 3
 - (2) Some were making no spiritual development among the Hebrews -- Heb. 5:12 - 14

II. THE SYMPTOMS OF SPIRITUAL ANEMIA

1. Weak in Resistance
 - (1) To Temptation -- He offers the excuse that "all are weak" -- Eph. 6:10, 16; I Cor. 10:13; Psa. 119: 11
 - (2) To Error -- Ashamed of the truth and afraid to defend it -- Eph. 4:14
 - (3) To Offenses -- He has thin blood and thin skin, and must be handled with gloves -- I Cor. 16: 13
2. Weak in Appetite

- (1) An appetite for spiritual food is necessary -- Matt. 5:6; Heb. 5: 12 - 14; I Pet. 2:2
- (2) The anemic Christian has a good appetite for TELEVISION, MOVIES, BALLGAMES, CARD GAMES, MAGAZINES --he literally "eats them up".
- (3) But, he has no appreciation of:
 1. STRONG MEAT -- he likes the first principles and not sermons on how Christians must live.
 2. DISTINCTIVE PREACHING -- For him the preaching must be positive and not negative, and when error is contrasted with truth there comes that "shortness of breath and palpitations of the heart" -- he is too weak to take it -- II Tim. 4: 1 - 5

3. Weak in Exercise

- (1) Spiritual exercise is essential -- I Tim. 4:8
- (2) He cannot exercise much for the Lord and His cause
 1. He does not attend regularly because he "feels bad", or "has company"
 2. He does not visit the sick because he "does not have time"
 3. He does not teach his neighbor because "that is the preacher's job"

4. Weak in his estimate of his ability

III. THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRITUALLY ANEMIC

1. We are not to despise and hate the weak
 - (1) We are taught not to offend the weak -- I Cor. 9:22; Matt. 18:6
 - (2) We must receive them and bear with them -- Rom. 14: 1; 15:1
2. While we bear with them, it is our duty also to admonish them
 - (1) Paul admonished the weak to get strong -- Eph. 6:10; Heb . 5:12
 - (2) We must try to restore them to their first love -- Gal. 6:1; Rev. 2:4
3. The Lord's attitude toward the anemic Christian:
 - (1) He understands that we start out as babies, born of water and Spirit -- John 3:5; I Pet. 2:2
 - (2) He understands that it takes time to grow and become strong -- Heb. 5:12
 - (3) But after a time, spiritual weakness is SIN -- it inexcusable -- it is wickedness and slothfulness -- Matt. 25:26; Rev. 3:17
4. Why is spiritual anemia so bad?
 - (1) It is willful -- unlike physical anemia, God has made all provisions for our growth
 - (2) It is Contagious -- it influences others to indifference

(3) It is Damning -- There is no hope for the willfully weak, for the life must be lived, the race run, and the battle fought.

CONCLUSION:

1. Repentance and confession are necessary -- Rev. 3:19; James 5:16

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