



Milk Drinkers and Meat Eaters

1Corinthians 3:1-3

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- “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 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; 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?”

Milk Drinkers and Meat Eaters

- The church at Corinth was rife with problems; 13 of 16 chapters addresses a total of 17 problems.
- Due to their immature nature Paul had to feed them with milk and not meat.
- Milk is for the spiritually undeveloped in Christ.
- Meat is for those who are spiritually mature in Christ.

Milk Drinkers and Meat Eaters

- 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- 2Peter 1:8-10 - “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”

Milk Drinkers and Meat Eaters

- Milk is (Greek gala - “milk;” Strong's G1051) the basic, elemental teachings of the Gospel first learned by new believers.
- Meat is (Greek word bromos - “food, meat, victuals;” Strong's G1033) the more solid, complete, and deeper consideration of the Gospel.

Milk Drinkers and Meat Eaters

- Milk versus meat
 - The content of milk and meat is similar
 - The consistency of milk and meat differ
 - The consumption of milk and meat differ



The Content Of Milk And Meat Is Similar

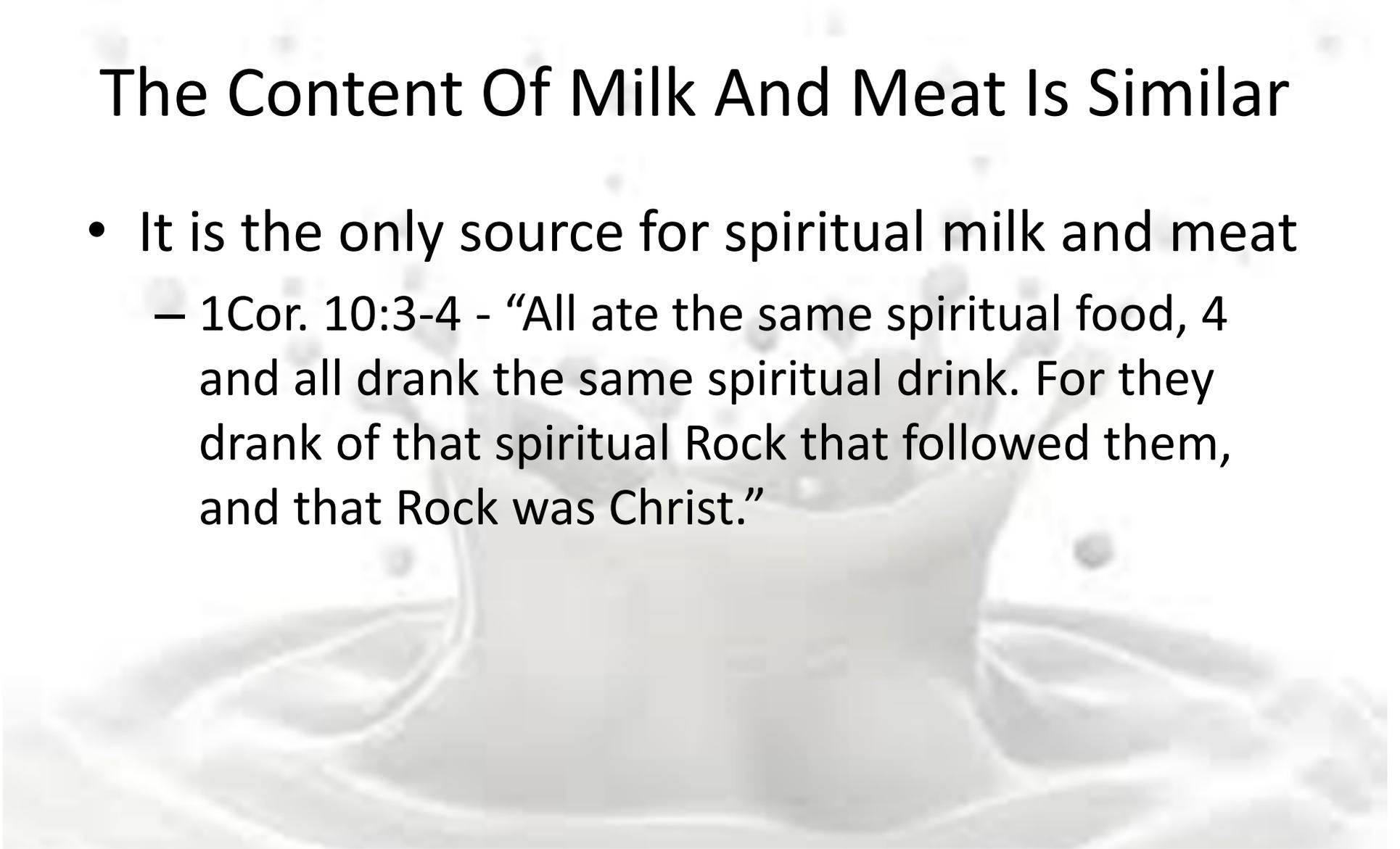
- “There is no difference at all between the truths of a spiritual milk diet and a spiritual solid food diet, except in detail and depth. All doctrine may have both milk and meat elements. It is not that we are to be continually learning new doctrines in order to grow, but that we are to be learning more about the doctrines we have known for years. A new Christian might explain the atonement, for example, as 'Christ died for my sins.' A long-time student of the Word, on the other hand, would go into such things as regeneration, justification, substitution, and propitiation. One explanation would not be truer than the other; but the first would be milk and the second, solid food” (John MacArthur, 1Corinthians, 71-72)

The Content Of Milk And Meat Is Similar

- Spiritual milk contains the same doctrine as spiritual meat.
- All teaching comes from the word of God
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

The Content Of Milk And Meat Is Similar

- It is the only source for spiritual milk and meat
 - 1Cor. 10:3-4 - “All ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”



The Content Of Milk And Meat Is Similar

- We grow by consuming both
 - Matt. 11:29 - “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
 - Psalm 119:73 - “Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.”
 - Matt. 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

The Consistency Of Milk And Meat Differ

- Spiritual milk is teaching easy to understand and handle
 - Heb. 6:1 - “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection...”

The Consistency Of Milk And Meat Differ

- Spiritual meat is teaching more difficult to divide and process.
 - 2Peter 3:15-16 - “And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”

The Consistency Of Milk And Meat Differ

- Gentle as a nurse
 - 1Thes. 2:7 - “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.”
- Correcting as a caring father
 - 1Thes. 2:11 - “As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children”
 - 2Thes. 3:10 - “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

The Consumption Of Milk And Meat Differs

- Spiritual milk is given to babes in Christ to grow
 - 1Peter 2:2 - “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”
- Spiritual meat is given to mature Christians
 - Heb. 5:14 - “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

The Consumption Of Milk And Meat Differs

- Problems occur when one partakes of the wrong spiritual diet; so, new Christians must have milk to grow
 - Heb. 6:1-2 - “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

The Consumption Of Milk And Meat Differs

- Mature Christians must be fed solid food or spiritual meat; if they do not get such food, they will become spiritual babies again
 - Heb. 5:12-13 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.”

The Consumption Of Milk And Meat Differs

- To demand milk when one ought to be eating meat is to return to carnality
 - 1Cor. 3:1-3 - “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 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; 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?”

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- “The Bible was composed in such a way that as beginners mature, its meaning grows with them” (Augustine).
 - Jer. 15:16 - “Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.”
 - Job 23:12 - “I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.”
 - Psalm 119:103 - “How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

Milk Drinkers and Meat Eaters

- When your hunger for the word of God becomes greater than your hunger for bread, when your first and last thoughts of the day are meditations on Holy Writ, when your opening and closing question in any test or trial is “What saith the will of God?”, then you can know that you are spiritually mature. Until that time, the young in the faith will eagerly imbibe the sincere milk of the word, and the older disciple will hungrily ingest the solid food of the doctrine of Christ. -- prb