

d. And **Galatians**?

e. How about **Ephesians**?

3. Given the big pictures of these five letters, where would we be **most likely** to find different a discussion of **different types of believers**? **Least likely**?

4. One passage is sometimes used to say that there are different types of Christians. That passage is **1Co 3:1**. Let's check out the neighborhood and see what we can learn about the meaning of this verse. We will begin in 1Co 2:1 and **read all of chapters 2 and 3**.

a. State in a sentence or two what **the big message of 1 Cor 2 and 3** is.

- b. What is the major distinction among people that **chapter 2** makes?
- c. Who is the “**natural man**” in 1Co 2:14?
- d. In 1Co 2, who is “**we**”? See 1Co 1:12.
- e. In chapter 2, who is able to have **God’s wisdom revealed** to them by the Spirit? The key verse is 1Co 2:6.
- f. In 1Co 3:1 , does Paul make **distinctions** between members of the church at Corinth, or does he address them as **one group**?

- g. What was Paul **not able to do yet** with the Corinthian church? Why not?
- h. Contrast the condition of **all the believers in Corinth** at the time with the condition of **those who are able to have God's wisdom revealed to them** by the Spirit.
- i. What is the **solution** to walking like mere men? We find it in **1Co 3:5-8**.
- j. How does Paul describe the entire church at Corinth in **1Co 3:16-17**? Does this serve to bring out distinctions, or describe them as all together?
- k. What is the overarching **problem** that exists in the church at Corinth at the time Paul wrote 1 Corinthians? See 1Co 1:10-13. What big thing is Paul **calling for** in 1 Corinthians? Using our knowledge of this letter, let's discuss how Paul goes about this **from chapter to chapter**.

1. In 1 Corinthians, who is going about trying to say there are different types of believers? Who is trying to explain how in God's eyes they are all equal?
5. The book of **Ephesians** is about the church as the one body of Christ. Believers are addressed as members of that body, and everything about the book as it relates to believers is corporate – all believers addressed as one body. Given that, you would not expect to find much discussion of different types of believers. Rather all believers are seen as all in one. Find places in Ephesians where believers are spoken of as being part of the one unity.
6. There is one passage in Ephesians that does make **distinctions** between types of believers. Can you find it? Here's a hint: we also find this distinction made in 1 Corinthians, and in Romans. Still not sure? OK, you will find this distinction in **Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:4-8, and 1 Corinthians 12-14, especially 1Co 12:4-21.**

7. What is the purpose of our having these distinctions in the body? How did the Corinthians twist this into their making the wrong kind of distinctions?

8. Let's now see how this relates to 2 Timothy. Big picture time: **what is 2 Timothy about?** Hint: 1 Timothy and Titus are also about this same thing.

9. How does the **purpose of 2 Timothy** relate to what we have seen so far about **distinctions** between types of believers?

10. What is the **big problem that Paul is warning Timothy about** in 2 Timothy? How does this shed light on the nature of the apostasy in 2Ti 3:1-9?

11. What is Paul's charge to Timothy in 2Ti 2:1-2? Given that, in verses 3-6, who is the soldier, farmer, and athlete?

12. Who is Paul asking Timothy to remind and charge in 2Ti 2:14? Who are the vessels? What do you think the large house is? Would you expect to find other things besides vessels in a large house?

13. Is there any evidence given in 2Ti 3:1-9 that Paul is talking about **believers**? Is there any evidence that would strongly suggest that these are **unbelievers**? See particularly verses 5-8.

14. With respect to **when** the “difficult times of the “last days” will come: what **clues** do we find in verses 5-9? Does Paul tell Timothy to do anything about these men in verse 5? What does this show about when the last days start(ed)? How about what Paul says about these men in verse 9? Does this suggest that these men will not come on the scene until centuries after Timothy is dead.. or that they were already on the scene in the first century? Connect this situation to statements that John makes in the letter of 1 John.

15. Given all this, what can we conclude about **the apostasy** described here in 2Ti 3?