Becoming What We Ought Not
Heb. 5:11-12

Introduction:
A. Paul was concerned about what the Hebrew Christians had become (NKJ, ASV)
B. We are concerned when we see congregations of Christians becoming what they ought not to be:

Discussion:
I. Denominationalized.
A. In thinking (cf. Prov. 23:7; Acts 17:29)
   1. Too fond of denominational writers.
   2. Too little time with Bible writers.
B. In teaching (cf. Titus 1:11)
   1. Non-doctrinal subjects most popular.
   2. “Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative”
   3. Denominational concepts of grace, unity, etc.
C. In language (cf. Neh. 13:23,24)
   1. Misuse of Reverend, pastor, church, etc.
   2. Old slogan: “Speak where Bible speaks, silent where Bible is silent, call Bible things Bible names....”
D. In structure (Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Phil. 1:1)
   1. Corrupt local organization – “committees” for elders and deacons, etc.
   2. Organization above local level.

II. Secularized
A. In our goals (cf. Col. 3:1)
   1. Social gospel’s over emphasis on improving quality of life on earth.
   2. Over emphasis on physical and fiscal health, little attention to spiritual health.
B. In our programs (cf. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34)
   1. Churches abuzz with secular activities.
   2. One lady said, “I so busy doing church work, I don’t have time to teach the lost.”
C. In our priorities.
   1. Over emphasis on “church plant”
   2. Preachers expected to be PR man, general manager, super salesman – like big business.
D. In our teaching (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4)
   1. Teachers to be philosopher or psychologists.
   2. Sermons expected to “pep rallies”

III. Fragmentized
A. By the spirit of iniquity (2 Thess. 2:7; Rom. 16:17-18)
B. By the spirit of intemperance (1 Cor. 9:25)
   1. Tongue (Jas. 1:26)
   2. Temper
C. By the spirit of inflexibility (1 Cor. 9:19-23; Jas. 3:17 NKJ)
   1. Every personal preference treated as matter of principle.
   2. Every matter of judgment treated as matter of faith.
D. By the spirit of intolerance (Eph. 4:1-3; Rom. 15:1-5)
   1. Treats all opposing views and conduct the same
   2. Treats all sinners the same (cf. 1 Thes. 5:14; Jude 22, 23)

Conclusion:
A. Need to be scriptural not denominational, spiritual not secular, united not fragmented.
B. Need to be as we should in all things, as individuals and congregation.
C. Need to become united with Christ and His body (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13)