

THE WHEAT AND TARES

Matthew 13:24-30

Introduction:

1. Christians are not supposed to live like unsaved people (1 Cor. 5:1-2)
2. Ever hear of "church discipline?"
3. Sin once unheard of one generation ago is now commonplace in the church.
4. Has God changed the rules? Can Christians now days live like the world and not be chastised by God?
5. Jesus introduces a parable of farming. It was common practice for a person to sow "tares" in the fields of his enemy even though there was a law against it. "Tares" was a wheat-like plant that produced useless kernels and only at plant maturity could the difference be noticed.

I. THE PLAYERS

1. The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.
2. The field is the WORLD (not the Church).
3. The good seed are believers.
4. Tares are the unbelievers and the enemy is Satan (1 John 3:10)

II. THE PLOT

1. Jesus sows, Satan ruins. The good and bad live together - for now.
2. The parable is NOT about unbelievers in the Church as much as:
3. The parable is FOR the Church living and sharing in the world with unbelievers.
4. God will do the harvesting, the separating at judgment.
5. Religious movements in times past have tried to purge the Church of unbelievers through trials, inquisitions, etc.
6. The Church's mission is not military, cleansing, purging the world or the Church body. The Church's mission is that of being ambassadors, emissaries of Christ.
7. Tares will never become wheat, but an unbeliever, a child of Satan CAN become a child of God.
8. Christians are to teach the gospel and LIVE a holy life in the world.

III. THE PLAN

1. There is coming a harvest time.
2. Character, behavior and fruit distinguish tares from wheat.
3. Meanwhile, the Church is not to accept tares as wheat, but not to forget about the tares either.
4. Final judgment is left to God and His angels.

CONCLUSION:

1. Real wheat will be identified by the crop it produces, not dandelions, tumbleweeds, but real wheat.
2. The children of God live in the world along with the children of Satan, sharing everything in the world.
3. The children of God bear different fruit (at harvest time) than that which the children of Satan bear, and only God knows the difference.