

Growing Up With Tares

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

1. In this chapter, Jesus gives eight kingdom parables; two of them were about who will and will not be in the kingdom.
2. These were the two the disciples asked about.
3. I suspect they were as troubled by them as we are today
4. That we can co-exist in this world, but there are standards by which we will be judged and separated on Judgment Day

B. Interpreting the parable

1. The sower in this parable is Christ.
2. The good seed is the Gospel.
3. The one who sowed tares is the devil.
4. The wheat are the genuine people of God.
5. The tares are those in the church who look, act, and sound like true Christians, but who are either deceived about their salvation or trying to deceive others about it.
6. The tares expect to go to heaven when they die, but are lost
7. Based on the Lord's parable, we can be certain that in every field of Christians, tares are growing with them

C. We could be tares

1. 2Cor. 13:5; 2Peter 1:10
2. How can we know?

I. VS. 24-25 - BOTH WERE PLANTED TOGETHER

A. The character of the seed

1. The Gospel produces after its own kind - Gen. 1:11
2. The tares produce tares
3. Tares cannot produce Christians; the Gospel does not produce reprobates
4. 1Peter 1:22-25; 1John 3:9; James 1:18; Matt. 7:17-20

B. The character of the sower

1. The good seed was sown by the owner of the field; the tares were sown by his enemy in an effort to ruin the crop and attack the farmer.
2. Satan knows that if he can place the enough of the artificial among the genuine, he can potentially destroy some or most of the crop.
 - a. Deceives the tares into thinking they are wheat
 - b. Deceives onlookers into seeing the entire field is a waste
 - c. Disrupts the harmony of local churches; if there is trouble in a local church, you can count on a sinful person at the center

II. VS. 26-30 - BOTH PROGRESSED TOGETHER

A. The activity of wheat: true growth - 1Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:5-7

B. The appearance of wheat: true health - John 7:24; 2Cor. 11:13-15

C. The abundance of wheat: good fruit

1. One thing the tare cannot produce is edible fruit.
2. If you were to open the head wheat, you would find it filled with wheat grains that can be made into wholesome foods.
3. If you opened the head of the tare, you would find it filled with tiny black seeds that are non-nutritious, and if eaten in quantity can make one nauseous and dizzy
4. Gal. 5:22-23 - The outward appearance of the plant can be counterfeited, but the fruit cannot be faked
5. 1Sam. 16:7; Heb. 4:12-13
6. It is interesting to note that the farmer said to allow them both to grow together until the harvest. The roots of the tares would intertwine with those of the wheat and if the tares were pulled out, then some of the wheat would be damaged also.
7. We cannot really tell the difference between the genuine and the artificial. If we set ourselves up as judges and start trying to weed out those we think may be tares, we will certainly pull up some of the wheat
8. The Christians, real and pretended, intertwine their lives to the extent that we would harm the faithful and void our influence should we try to make and act upon such judgments

III. VS. 30 - BOTH WERE PROCESSED TOGETHER

A. When the day of harvest arrives, reapers will be sent into the field to gather the tares first, and then the wheat. How could they tell the difference? It is easy at this stage, because as the wheat matures, the head becomes filled with kernels and the weight of the grain causes the stalk to bend toward the ground. The seeds in the head of the tare are light. This allows the tare to stand tall. It is then cut off and the wheat can be harvested later.

B. One commentator wrote: "As a genuine believer grows in the Lord, he tends to become more humble before the presence of God, and his head is bowed.

The tare will stand in his pride and be cut off while clinging tightly to his false beliefs and foolishness."

C. The tares were burned. They were bound together, allowed to dry and were used for kindling.

D. The wheat was barned

1. There are only two possible destinations for the human soul.
2. 2Thes. 1:8-9; John 14:1-3