

THE PARABLE OF THE TARES AND THE WHEAT (Part 3 of 6)

There is no clearer identification of the tares in Christ's parable, provided for every Christian's awareness/discernment, than what we read in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 –

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

This warning is both necessary and compatible with our Lord's toleration of these tares until the end of the age (Matthew 13:40-42). In the meantime, as the Church Age progresses, Christians are not to take upon themselves the role of Crusaders, purging the tares out of existence. Instead, we are to maintain an all-important point of balance in regard to their presence: **“by tolerating their existence without capitulating to their influence.”** Yet, a feeble acquiescence is precisely what is occurring as the American Evangelical Church continues to accommodate every deviant perspective possible, for the sake of numerical growth, and for the purpose of maintaining a contrived and superficial unity.

As a result, true Christians are being increasingly mesmerized by false teachings, from a lack of being rooted and grounded in sound doctrine. This was Paul's concern in the first century and it should be ours right now. Notice the two most prominent warnings in his epistles, found in Ephesians 4:14-15, as well as 2 Timothy 4:3-4 –

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to GROW UP (emphasis added) in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ. . .”

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

Doesn't it seem as if the tares of Matthew 13 are in full bloom, exerting a far greater influence over the body of Christ than they should? But this only serves as confirmation, that we are in the very last days of the Church Age.