



[Matthew 13:24-30](#)

(24) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; (25) but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. (26) But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. (27) So the servants of the owner came and said to him, "Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?" (28) He said to them, "An enemy has done this." The servants said to him, "Do you want us then to go and gather them up?" (29) But he said, "No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. (30) Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."""

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This parable is another illustration showing why the [true church](#) is scattered in many organizations. The [Kingdom of Heaven](#) resembles the situation on a man's farm. The farmer sows good seed, but while the plants are developing, weeds sprout up. The true and the false are mingled together in the same field. It is interesting that the bad seed is sown while everybody is asleep. Consider this in relation to [Matthew 25:1-13](#), the [Parable of the Ten Virgins](#). [Laodiceanism](#) put us asleep, and the bad seed was sown among us then.

Notice, too, that [God](#) clearly shows that the sowing of bad seed was a *deliberate* act. An enemy did this! To understand this correctly, we have to recognize that *God permitted it and it will continue!* Both will remain until God separates us at the resurrection.

This parable is fulfilled in the visible church. If we compare this to [Revelation 2 and 3](#), we can conclude that in some of the churches, the tares dominate. This does not mean that true Christians are not there. For instance, in Thyatira, tares are running things! The same is true of the Pergamos church, where Satan's seat is. How about Sardis? They have a name that they are alive, but they are dead! [Jesus](#) says that only a few among

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them are still awake, who have not left the faith.

We can also conclude that all of the churches of God have tares in them. It is entirely logical to think that every one of those churches have a variety of true Christians in various stages of development. They contain a mixture of seed, good and bad, in various stages of growth.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Unity \(Part 8\): Ephesians 4 \(E\)](#)



Related Topics:

[Laodiceanism](#)

[Parable of the Tares](#)

[Parable of the Ten Virgins](#)

[Scattering](#)

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