



[Matthew 13:24-30](#)

(24) And He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is compared to a man who was sowing good seed in his field; (25) But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. (26) Now when the blades sprouted and produced fruit, then the tares also appeared. (27) And the servants came to the master of the house *and* said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then where did these tares come from?' (28) And he said to them, 'A man *who is* an enemy has done this.' Then the servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go out and gather them?' (29) But he said, 'No, lest while you are gathering the tares, you *also* uproot the wheat with them. (30) Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and at the time of the harvest, I will say to the reapers, "Gather the tares first, and bind them into bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my granary."

[Matthew 13:37-40](#)

(37) And He answered *and* said to them, "The One Who sows the good seed is the Son of man; (38) And the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*. (39) Now the enemy who sowed them is the devil; and the harvest is *the* end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. (40) Therefore, as the tares are gathered and consumed in the fire, so shall it be in the end of this age.

A Faithful Version

As [Jesus](#) says, the field is [the world](#), in which He has established His church. The church is not of the world ([John 17:14](#)), but within it, just as a farmer may designate a specific plot of his land, separated from the rest, for a particular, unique crop.

However, [Satan](#) the Devil has also been at work, sowing his own seeds within the field. Using fragments of God's [truth](#), Satan has founded false religions and counterfeit Christianities that preach distortions of truth. Like the tare that grows masquerading as

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the wheat, members of these false churches may appear good, pious, and very generous. Worldly Christians may possess a seemingly good heart and act with fine intentions, but when the top layer of [goodness](#) is peeled back exposing their core, they reveal deceived hearts lacking understanding or true love.

Further, the world's churches are in constant rebellion against [God](#), refusing to keep His commandments and rejecting the absolute authority of His words. The world's ministers even pervert the Word of God with infusions from such pagan religions as Buddhism, Hinduism, or other mystic or New Age faiths. Through [syncretism](#) and false [doctrine](#), these churches accomplish the will of their evil father: deceit and destruction (see [John 8:44](#)).

Satan's malignant influence is not felt only within the world. He has planted his own seeds, sowing false brethren and even ministers within the very church of God. However, as Christ reveals in this parable, God permits this intrusion of well-camouflaged counterfeits. Tares in God's church will appear religious and devout, with no obvious warning-flag identifying them to unsuspecting church members.

— Ted E. Bowling

To learn more, see:
[Taking Care With the Tares](#)

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