

Wheat and Tares
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50

Review:

1. Satan is ultimately responsible for the recurring division and impurity within the Church
2. We need to be careful with our disciplinary measures, taking care not to weed out the good along with the bad
3. God is going to cleanse the Church and the world on the Day of Judgment, punishing the wicked and vindicating the righteous

Reflect:

1. What reaction do you have when you think about the coming Day of Judgment? What changes do you need to make in your life in light of this reality?

Go further: Read I Corinthians 5:1-13

1. What is the problem in the congregation that Paul identifies in verse 1?
2. According to Leviticus 18:8, Jews would have disapproved of this behavior. Who else does Paul say would consider this unmentionable?
3. According to verse 2, what was the Corinthians' reaction to this sin? What did they refuse to do?
4. What judgment has Paul rendered in the case, according to verse 3?
5. What does Paul tell the Corinthians to do to this unrepentant sinner? What is the reason Paul says this should be done?
6. In verse 6, what does Paul say that a little leaven does to a lump of dough?
7. According to Exodus 12:15, Jewish people were to remove all leaven from their houses during the Feast of Passover. What does Paul tell the Corinthians to do in verse 7? What do you think he means by this?
8. Who does Paul say was sacrificed for us?
9. In verse 8, how does Paul say we should not keep the feast of Christ? How should we keep it? What do you think he means by keeping the feast?
10. According to verse 9, what instruction did Paul give the Corinthians in a previous letter?
11. In verse 10, to what group of people does Paul say this instruction did not apply? Why not?
12. In verse 11, with whom does Paul say the Corinthians should not keep company? What sort of association does he specifically say they should avoid? What do you think this means?
13. Who does Paul say that Christians have the authority to judge?
14. Who does Paul say will judge those who are outside the church?
15. What does Paul say should be done with an evil person?

Summary and Application:

1. Have you ever had a Christian brother or sister confront you with a sin you didn't know you were committing? What was your reaction?
2. Why do you think it would be a big problem for someone to go on being mistaken about his spiritual condition?
3. Quoting Deuteronomy, Paul says that Christians should "put away" evil people. How can Christians apply church discipline effectively (v. 13) while working toward the salvation of those who are living in unrepentant sin (v. 5)?