



## Tares and Wheat

The word clearly says there will come a time when He will do the separating. Only our Lord truly knows the minds and hearts of people. The sword of the Spirit will do the discerning and dividing. The cut will be swift and final.

There are many who have set themselves as judges even though they are not the judge. They even believe they are doing the work of God as they condemn and expose those who would be their brother. They are convinced that their way is right, but is it? Are they letting their mind and convictions rule the situation? Is their spirit doing the discerning. If they truly believe that their brother is in error, have they first interceded for them and sought God for the truth to be revealed. To whomever, even if it is to themselves. Are you willing to accept correction if needed?

Scripture tells us "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." 1 Cor. 4:5 Get rid of that beam in your eye before you worry about the speck in his. Are we setting ourselves up to be the judge or is that God's job?

Jesus explicitly spoke against sectarianism. In Luke 9:49-50 He said "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us. But Jesus said to him, ""Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.""

Yes, there are certain truths that must be defended: the virgin birth, death and resurrection, the deity of Christ, etc. These are irrefutable truths that must be acknowledged but do we quibble about what we discern to be the correct way? Why are there so many denominations? Is it not because there are different opinions about the "right way". And yes "woke-ism" and "cancel culture" is creeping into many congregations and must be fought against. The word of God, it's truth and power must never be diluted. We do not compromise to be more acceptable to the world view. All I'm really

saying is that we should prayerfully consider a brother's beliefs before we condemn them.

I know many charismatics have stretched His truths and dwelt upon one truth and exalted it above others; prosperity and healing being only a few. Yes, God always wants us to "prosper and be in health", but His ultimate desire is for our souls to maturity, for growth. Can we even truly discern His perfect will without the Holy Spirit. Do we try to live and walk in the spirit and not in our own understanding?

Is our own heart open to correction by the Spirit or are we ruled by what our denomination teaches? There is a truth that only God knows and only He can reveal to our hearts. Yes, we must stand up for God and His eternal truth but what does He tell us? To let the peace God rule our hearts and to let love be the dominant factor. What does He say is His will? "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." Indeed, He is not willing that any should perish.

Can we all have that spirit as we strive for unity in the body of Christ; unity was His prayer. It was His desire. I'm not talking about compromise. I'm talking about a perfect mix of truth and mercy. "Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:13

A grain of wheat or a tare. Are you working for unity or sowing division? There are many ministries that make their ministry the correction and judgment of others. I find it sad that they work so much harder for correction than they do for unity. Is our Lord sad also? The time for concentration on unimportant things has passed. If you were sharing a cell for your faith in Jesus, how much would the differences then matter?

The Day of the Lord is coming. "The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day." Isa 2:17 "See, the day of the Lord is coming — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger — to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it." Isa. 13:9 It is a time when man cannot stand by his strength alone. It is only the blood-bought redemption of Jesus and His worthiness that enable anyone to escape the wrath to come. He alone is worthy to judge. He alone will condemn or reward..

Let each of us consider where we have come from; how fall we all have fallen from the perfection God created. Consider His holiness and His grace that allows us to enter His presence. None of us can enter on our own righteousness. Are we striving to lift Him up and build His body? There are even now far too many renouncing the faith and turning from the truth. Lawlessness is abounding and the love of many is waxing cold. Work for that unity. Work for that fullness. Be a wheat and not a tare. Seek to build up and not destroy. Seek mercy and not sacrifice. Bring forth that finishing capstone with shouts of "grace".