

One Church Two Congregations

Sitting in the seats or pews of most Church Sanctuaries are two different Congregations. However because they are interspersed and intermingled with each other, most people cannot normally discern the difference. Therefore they would never expect that friction might develop between them in the future. Nearly everyone's perception of the room or Sanctuary is that it is filled with a variety of people, friends or neighbors, attending their favorite Church. Most, at first glance, think there is just a single Congregation filling the Sanctuary. However, when a certain level of discernment begins to develop, a person may begin to distinguish that there is a very subtle, yet important difference between various individuals.

The development of this discernment usually begins to increase when someone seeks to have a much deeper and closer relationship with God. This in turn, increases their desire to have a better and more complete understanding of the Bible. Usually, it results in them beginning to pay much better attention to the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, and especially the words of Jesus. As they begins to do this, the understanding of the dichotomy between these two groups gradually becomes far less elusive. The contrast between the two groups will frequently become more and more obvious.

As this discernment develops they may begin taking a closer look at those sitting in the pews or seats of the Sanctuary around them. What at first glance, in the past, had appeared to be a single Congregation; has now gradually, as their discernment increased, begun to expose a difference. So, what is this difference that they are beginning to become more aware of? What are the differences in these two groups? The New Testament words of Jesus gives us a hint as to where and what these differences might be.

Matthew 13:24-30 (NASB)

(24) He (Jesus) presented another parable to them, saying, "**The Kingdom of Heaven** may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field."

(25) "But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away."

(26) "But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also."

(27) "And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'"

- (28) “And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this! And the slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’”
- (29) “But he said, ‘No; lest while you are gathering up the tares you may root up the wheat with them.’
- (30) ‘Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Notice, that at first, it was difficult to tell the difference between the two. It is not until each began to bear fruit, that the difference becomes evident. With this in mind, perhaps we should to take a look at some of the people sitting in the Sanctuary.

Many, if not most, of those in the Sanctuary, will be very out spoken as to:

How Jesus has saved **them**.

How Jesus so loves **them**.

How Jesus freed **them** from the curse of the Law.

How Jesus paid the penalty for **their** sins.

How Jesus came to bring **them** peace.

How Jesus has already forgiven any sin **they** may commit in the future.

And the list goes on, as to what Jesus has done and is doing for **them**.

Notice, how the focus of their beliefs and worship are based on what they feel Jesus, as their God, has done and is doing for **them**. In short their focus is on what **they** can get for **themselves!**

Another, usually smaller group in the Sanctuary will have a different focus in their beliefs and worship. Their focus is on **THEIR love for God**. Their **love for God** has begun to overwhelm them, in all aspects of their life. They deeply appreciate and properly acknowledge what Jesus has done for them as their Savior and Redeemer. However they have an overwhelming love and devotion for ALMIGHTY GOD, their HEAVENLY FATHER, who sent HIS SON to Redeem them!

John 8:42 (NASB)

(42) Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.”

John 17:8, 25 (NIV)

(8) “For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that **you sent me.**”

(25) “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that **you have sent me.**”

Luke 4:5-8 (NIV)

(5) The devil led him (Jesus) up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

(6) And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.”

(7) So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

(8) Jesus answered, “It is written:

“Worship the LORD Your God and serve Him **ONLY!**”

John 14:28 (NIV)

(28) “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you love me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I.**”

The Second Group, in their study of the New Testament and especially their study of the words of Jesus, have **noticed** that according to what Jesus said, He (Jesus) and The Heavenly father cannot be the same being! This was emphasized by Jesus, when he said: **The Father is greater than I !** Jesus goes on to show that our relationship to, and with, Almighty God, our Heavenly father was to be the same as His relationship was, and is, with His Father!

John 20:17 (NIV)

(17) Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to **my Father** and **your Father**, to **my God** and **your God.**’ ”

The Second Group, through these and other verses in New Testament believe that in order to be more like Jesus, that they also need to do as Jesus did. And who did Jesus say is **His God** and is to be **your ONE AND ONLY God?** Jesus did not claim that position for Himself. Rather He declared His **sub-ordination** to His **HEAVENLY FATHER.**

So, this Second Group, along with this overwhelming love and devotion for God their **HEAVENLY FATHER**, there is also an acceptance of Jesus as Messiah in all the fullness, which is expected of them by both **Jesus** and **His HEAVENLY FATHER.** Even though Jesus said it was not

His idea or initiative He did agree to His FATHER'S plan for Him to be born as a human, to live His life as a Righteous Jewish Rabbi, to be crucified, put to death and Resurrected. Who now will soon be returning to earth as the **KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** and rule for 1,000 years, with a **ROD OF IRON** to insure a Millennium of Peace. They are grateful that Jesus accepted His FATHER'S plan for His first coming, in order to first Redeem the Chosen, yet fallen Ones of Israel, and second for the balance of humanity.

This Second Group in the Congregation is the one who seeks to put the instructions and teachings of Jesus, as well as the rest of Scripture, into practice in their own life. They desire to put them into practice not only in their Church life, but also in their home life and their business life as well. Therefore the words of God as well as the words of Jesus have become the predominant focal point in their everyday life.

Because of their deep and abiding **love for God**, this second and usually smaller group, desires to **give** (of their own lives, to ALMIGHTY GOD) **more** than they **want** to **GET for themselves!**

While the First Group's focus is on what has been and will be done for **them**, or what they can **GET from Him**, both **NOW and in the future!**

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

- (34) Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.
- (35) One of them, an expert in the Law, tested Him with this question:
- (36) "Teacher, which is THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT in the Law?"
- (37) Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with **all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**'"
- (38) **This is the first and GREATEST COMMANDMENT.**
- (39) **And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'**
- (40) **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these TWO COMMANDMENTS."**

In Days of Old, when Knights and Kings were found scattered across Europe, Knights would show their devotion to their King by swearing allegiance to him. They would declare that the Kings slightest wish would be their command. Most people see this as a great and noble thing to be done by the Knight. Yet, when a person today has an even greater love and devotion to their FATHER IN HEAVEN, ALMIGHTY GOD, who is the **KING OF THE UNIVERSE**; such that His slightest wish has become their command, they are accused of trying to earn their Salvation! They are chastised (by those in the First Group), and told that they have gone into a form of **Heresy!** The **Heresy of Works!** Perhaps it is because those in the First Group can-not comprehend that someone would put out so much time, effort, energy and work, unless they (like themselves) were trying **to get** something from God (by paying for their own Salvation). On the other hand, the Second Group is seeking **to give** love, devotion and obeisance to their HEAVENLY FATHER, **instead of** trying to **GET more from God, for themselves!**

Because of this love and devotion, it appears that the Second Group may actually have the words of His HEAVENLY FATHER written on their hearts.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 (NASB)

(31) “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a **NEW COVENANT** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

(32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord..”

(33) “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, I will put **My Law** within them, and **on their heart I will write it**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Sadly far too many in the First Group think that since Jesus has already paid for their sins, that they have no need to worry about keeping those Old Laws in the Old Testament. Many in the First Group can-not understand why anyone, including the Jews, would ever need to have **The Law** written on their heart? The First Group believes that if they, or anyone else, will just receive “**Jesus**” as **LORD**, then they can be assured and know that the price for them and their sins has been paid in full by Jesus. They believe that they don’t have to worry about their sins (past, present or future), as long as they have accepted **Jesus is their LORD and Savior!**

Matthew 7:20-23 (NASB)

(20) “**So then, you will know them by their fruits.**” (works and deeds?)

(21) “**Not everyone who says to Me, ‘LORD, LORD’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.**” (obeying - God’s Laws?)

(22) “**Many will say to Me on that day, ‘LORD, LORD, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’**”

(23) “**And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’**”

How difficult is that to understand? It appears that Jesus is declaring that those individuals who rejected THE LAWS OF GOD, not only as part of their religion but also as a guide for their everyday life, will be told by Jesus, “**I never knew you!**” For they had been practicing a lifestyle and religion that has a mind-set that says: “**The Law was done away with!**” as the foundation of their Christian Denomination and Faith! With this still in mind, perhaps we should go back and review the parable of the Tares and the Wheat, for a second time. As we take this second look at the parable, pay close attention to what is done at the end of this parable.

Matthew 13:24-30 (NASB)

- (24) He (Jesus) presented another parable to them, saying, “The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.”
- (25) “But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away.”
- (26) “But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.”
- (27) “And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’”
- (28) “And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this! And the slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’”
- (29) “But he said, ‘No; lest while you are gathering up the tares you may root up the wheat with them.’
- (30) ‘Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to **burn them up**; but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

If the field is representing the Sanctuary, with the Tares representing the First Group of Congregants, and the Wheat is representing a Second Group of Congregants, you would have both of these Congregants in the same Sanctuary at the same time, even today. It appears that Jesus is warning those who heard Him at that time, as well as those who would read His words in the future, so that they, both then and now, would know what was to happen to the group which He (Jesus) considers to be the Tares, on the **DAY OF JUDGMENT**.

Matthew 13:41-43 (NASB)

- (41) “The **Son of Man** will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who **commit Lawlessness**,
- (42) and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.**”
- (43) “Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. **He who has an ear, let him hear!**”

Luke 8:19-21 (NASB)

- (19) And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd.
- (20) And it was reported to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You.”
- (21) But He answered and said to them, “**My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and **do it!****”

Many, if not most, of those in the First Group believe, as well as espouse, “Those Old Laws of the Old Testament were only given by God to show that they were impossible for anyone to keep!” But is that really so? Was that really what God was doing when He gave **His LAWS, COMMANDMENTS AND STATUTES?**

Deuteronomy 30:10-11 (NASB)

(10) “If you obey the LORD your God to **keep HIS COMMANDMENTS** and **HIS STATUTES** which are written in this book of the **Law**, **IF** you turn to the LORD your God **with all your heart and soul.**”

(11) “**For this Commandment which I command you today is NOT too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.**”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NIV)

(19) This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.**

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

(20) and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life, ...

One Church – Two Congregations

One Church – With each one of the two Congregations headed down a different Path

One Church – Two Paths, each ending at a different Gate

One Church – One Path leads to a broad non-Observant Lawless Gate and
One Path leads to a narrow Observant Law-abiding Gate

One Church – Two Congregations

Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)

(13) “**Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.**”

(14) “**For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to Life (Eternal Life), and few are those who find it!**”