

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

DANGEROUS PEOPLE

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

- There are dangerous people who threaten our spiritual security by seducing us.

Psalm 73:3, 13, 17 "I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence 17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny."

- They are dangerous people because of the subtle effect they have on your thoughts and emotions.

- They are hard to detect because they do and say godly things -- but with selfish motives which you can't see.

2 Timothy 3:2, 5 "People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful... 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them."

1. THE 'LOOK ALIKES' IN CHURCH

Matthew 13:24-26 "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and **sowed weeds** among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared."

- "Weeds" = "a false grain." Today it's called "bearded darnel."
- Jesus explained that Satan sows such seed among believers with the intent to destroy believers before they can be spiritually productive.
- Jesus had warned that men would come in sounding and looking like believers, but were actually "*ferocious wolves*" who would **deceive** and **destroy** believers. [Matthew 7:15]

Acts 20:29 "false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among ... not sparing the flock."

How will you be able to recognize these dangerous people?

- They probably won't know they are "weeds" because Satan has blinded their eyes. So asking them won't help you.
- A **sensitive spirit** is your great alarm system that will probably pick up two things:

- a defiled spirit
- a passion for blessings and signs, but not for God Himself

Don't confuse their personality with their spirit.

2. THE PHONIES WILL BE EXPOSED

Matthew 13:29 [Jesus] ‘Don’t pull the weeds!’”

- If you pull the weeds, you may pull the wheat with them. God **values** you and your fruit far too much to risk losing you.
- God has a great deal of confidence in the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.
- The authentic believer’s fruit will show they are for real, and the artificial will prove they are not for real by their fruit.
- God provides all the nourishment the wheat needs, while He **leverages** the pain the weeds cause to force the wheat to become stronger! That’s His ways!

3. HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

- Avoid those whose spirit is off balance.
- Watch your wake to make sure your spirit hasn’t become polluted. Do you see God-fearing disciples behind you who the Holy Spirit has enabled you to influence ... or confused, bruised people, who instead of being passionate for God, are more passionate for a religious cause or their own agenda?

- Be **proactive**

Psalm 91:1, 3 (NKJV) “He who **dwells in the secret place of the Most High** shall abide under the shadow [defense or protection] of the Almighty. 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler (trapper)...”

- Develop **your spirit** to better hear His voice and know Him.

- Your safest place is living close to Him.

Matthew 13:43 “... then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He, who has ears, let him hear.”

- There is a huge reward for those who endure to the end.

Jesus didn’t put this warning in the Bible for you to ignore.

- Digging Deeper - “Dangerous People”

For personal or small group study

Week of August 23, 2009

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage was the most significant to you personally in this week’s message? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What comes to your mind when you think of dangerous people? What thoughts do you have when you think of dangerous people who may threaten your spiritual security? In what ways could these people possibly seduce you? [Matthew 7:15-21; Ephesians 5:6-8; 1 John 2:26]
2. How would an enemy best infiltrate and destroy the opposition without a direct frontal attack? Read Matthew 13:4, 19, 24-30, 36-43. What are some tactics Satan uses in attempting to attack God’s work and God’s people? How do the tares or false grain damage God’s kingdom? What do they represent? How do they potentially affect us as Christians? Is it working? Why do we need to take this parable teaching seriously and not ignore it?
3. How are we to recognize dangerous people? What is their prime way of functioning? Do they even realize that they are leading people astray? How do we know if *we* are one of them? [2 Timothy 3:13-17; Acts 20:29; Psalm 119:68-70, 98, 105; Proverbs 4:23; Jude 20; 2 Corinthians 13:5]
4. To determine if a \$20 bill is counterfeit do you study the counterfeit or the original? [The original ...right?] How is this also true in determining if a person is what they say they are? How does this help us determine if we are what we say we are? How does our spirit (conscience) work as an alarm system? What does the spirit reveal that our natural mind might miss?
5. Jesus didn’t just put this warning into the Bible to be ignored. Rather, that believers would be proactive in strengthening their spirit by drawing closer to Him and not become deceived. Today make a plan to begin developing your spirit and drawing closer to God by making a conscious effort to determine if it is your feelings/mind or your spirit speaking to you when you are making decisions. What voice are you hearing and responding to? Keep a log and go over it with your prayer partner or life coach. [Hebrews 4:11-13; James 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 12:1]