

The Good Seed

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I. Introduction.

A. The key to how ministries grow is the good seed.

D. Text: Matthew 13:24.

1. The “good seed” are the people of the kingdom.
2. The kingdom of God is the kingship of God over men and women.
3. The kingdom of God comes by growing within—spiritual reproduction.

a. When we pray for God’s kingdom to come, we pray that obedience for Christ on earth will increase. (Romans 15:28)

b. Obedience puts teeth into the message of Christ.

c. The key is the good seed.

II. The “good seed.”

A. It has life.

1. It is Christ’s indwelling life that it has.

2. What the life is like.

a. It can grow from within and can reproduce. That we are alive to God is a reality that we can thank God for as believers. (Romans 6:11)

b. It is living, abundant and inexhaustible since it comes with Christ’s indwelling and not simply our attempts to mimic Him. (John 4, Psalm 136, John 10:10, John 15:15)

c. It must be sown.

B. It is sown in the field by Christ in faith.

1. It is sown into the world so that it can be productive.

2. It must be born out of a calling of Christ. (Matthew 15:13)

3. We all need a personal commission from God.

a. A call will give the believer security in the midst of the battle.

- b. These calls come out of the agonies of life itself.
- c. There is dynamism and spontaneity in having a call.

C. It is able to reproduce because it dies.

1. The life of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:10)

- a. For this to happen there must be death.
- b. We often do not get a hold of this truth because of the enormity of sin in the world. It takes something as radical as the cross and death to cure.
- c. This death of self results in life for other men. (John 12)

2. Other men. (2 Corinthians 4:12, John 4:12)

- a. A life lived for self is a lonely life.
- b. Stages for reproduction.
 - 1) Falling into the ground.
 - 2) Dying to self-effort, to God given talent, etc.
- c. There is a reward in dying to self - Christ's life and the lives of others. (Isaiah 40:43)

Application questions

1. What is good seed and what characterizes it?

2. How is this seed dependent upon Christ? How does this contrast with the philosophy of the world?

3. Why is death to self important in the Christian life? What things do you need to experience a kind of death to?
