

# Three Typical Kinds of Church Members

Matt. 13:3-9

## Introduction:

- A. Jesus used parables to reveal the “mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” to his disciples (v. 11).
- B. This parable illustrates various results from spreading the word of God.
- C. This parable also illustrates three typical kinds of church members.
  - 1. The first soil (wayside) represents those who never become Christians.
  - 2. The last three represent *members* found in most congregations:

## Discussion:

### I. The Shallow (vv. 5, 20, 21).

- A. Shallow in knowledge of Christ and His church.
  - 1. Because of a lack of real Bible study (cf. Acts 17:11).
  - 2. Because they have desire only for milk (Heb. 5:12-14).
  - 3. Because they refuse to study vital issues (cf. Acts 15:2,3)
- B. Shallow in commitment to Christ and His church.
  - 1. Unwilling to forsake *all* for Christ (Lk. 14:33).
  - 2. Unwilling seek *first* the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 6:33).
  - 3. Unwilling do share in building up the church (Eph. 4:16).
  - 4. Unwilling to stand in time of trouble (cf. 2 Tim. 4:14-16; 1 Cor. 11:19)
- C. Such remain members only because have not faced real persecution (v. 21).

### II. The Worldly (vv. 7, 22).

- A. The grossly worldly — engage in various works of the flesh (cf. Gal. 5:19-21).
- B. The mildly worldly — too entangled the “affairs of this life” (2 Tim. 2:4).
  - 1. Must be “involved”, but not “entangled.”
  - 2. Can become overly involved in work, family and civic affairs.
  - 3. No time or energy left for spiritual exercise and duties.
- C. Such may remain members, but are “unfruitful” .

### III. The Fruitful (vv. 8, 23).

- A. These are the real producers (v. 23).
  - 1. Their roots run deep.
  - 2. Their affections are set on things above.
- B. These produce varying degrees of fruit.
  - 1. Because they vary in ability, opportunity and growth (Parable of talents)
  - 2. Only limited by ability, opportunity and time for growth.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let each examine himself as to where he fits into this parable.
  - 1. If shallow, then become more deeply involved.
  - 2. If worldly, then become less deeply involved.
  - 3. If fruitful, then determine to produce until the end.