

Sowing Ourselves

Today's Reading Matthew 13:24-43

Another obstacle for intentional sowing is "what to sow." The answer seems obvious: "The Word of God, of course!" While this is true, Jesus provides us with a little twist when explaining the parable of the wheat and tares. He says, "... as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom" (v. 38). In other words: YOU, ME...WE are the seed!

In order for us to bear fruit in our garden, we must be planted in the soil, together with others in our garden. But this process can be perilous, even detrimental to growth. The cultivation process is exhausting and can turn ugly sometimes. No matter. We still must become seed, completely enveloped in the stuff of life that our friends also face, and we must allow them to watch us grow and groan in the soil.

Paul said to the Thessalonians, "You became imitators of us and of the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 1:6). In the same way our friends are watching us and we ought to become examples that are worth emulating.

When the seed is stuck in the soil it is not always a pretty thing. There is an outer shell that must fall away, rot to the ground, before the glory of what is inside is allowed to flourish. In the same way, we must be willing to give up the outer cover of selfishness that often impedes us from reaching out to our friends who are without Christ. We must die to ourselves, our schedules, our fears, our pride, etc., in order to successfully plant ourselves in the midst of our garden.

Jesus said, "... unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24). What sacrifices are you willing to make so that people God has planted in your garden can find the hope and forgiveness that only Christ can offer?

Pastor Ivanildo C. Trindade