

Safe People Week 2

*Reality as people find it.

- The walls of the church do not make it safe from sin.

"...The one whose walk is blameless will minister to me." Psalm 101:6

- The Church can be a healing place where lives are transformed and where powerful love and healing can take place.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" Eph. 4:16

*Reality as the Bible Describes It.

- In the church, we will find both healing and hurt.
- If we are going to minimize hurt we need to make sure that we see the church as God described it to us.

Parable of the Weeds

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" Matthew 13:24-30

- God allows unsafe people in the church.

Parable of the Sower/ Mixed Bag.

- Seed on the rocky soil.
At first they get along fine, but they wilt as soon as they have problems.
- Seed on the thorny ground.
Represents those who hear and accept the good news, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life and the lure of wealth.
- Seed on the good soil.
Represents the hearts of those who truly accept God's message produce a huge harvest thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted. (Matthew 13:19-23)

The Long and short of it is that we have to work to find safe people, using our wisdom, discernment and character.