

IS IT A WEED OR NOT?

SCRIPTURE:

Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3: 7-8).

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Bermuda grass
or grass seed

SONG: "I am a Sheep"

MAIN MESSAGE:

In the world we live in, we see so much evil and immorality that we can become desensitized to it, and what is really evil and immoral begins to look normal and average. We cannot allow Satan to sneak his way into our homes. We need to know how to recognize what belongs and what doesn't.

LESSON:

There is a tradition in our family that we follow every time we go to Grandma and Grandpa's house in Kansas. As soon as the car stops in front of their house, we all take our shoes and socks off so we can walk through the grass in their front yard. That is because Grandpa has the softest, Kentucky bluegrass you have ever felt between your toes. In Oklahoma, where we live, we have a nice lawn, but it is the scratchy, itchy, prickly Bermuda grass that grows in the south. After walking barefoot in our yard, Grandpa's feels like you are walking in a lawn of corn silk. The funny thing is the grass that makes up our entire yard in Oklahoma, is considered a weed in Kansas. Grandpa will call out the National Guard, if he needs to, in order to eliminate even the smallest patch of Bermuda grass from growing in his yard. So, is it a weed or not?

There are a lot of things in our lives that we see and hear every day that may begin to sound normal, but to God they are evil and sinful. Just because I got used to a Bermuda grass lawn being normal because I see it every day, didn't change the fact that Grandpa saw Bermuda grass as an enemy to his yard. In our lives, we have to know what God has declared as an enemy to our soul, and not allow the world to convince us that they are our friends. The media and entertainment world are telling us that drinking alcohol, adultery, disrespecting our parents, and homosexuality are normal activities in everyday life. But we know that God has commanded us to stay away from all of these things because they are sinful and will not only be harmful to our physical lives, but will destroy our spiritual lives as well.

The apostle Paul lists many of these sins that people fill their lives with, in Romans 1:28-31. Then in verse thirty-two he says, "Although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them." That is the way Satan works. He will try to convince you, through temptations, that you are just like everyone else when you practice these sinful things. He will make you think that since everyone else is doing it, it must be okay. Here is the catch: always remember that everyone is NOT doing it. Keep in mind that, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate" (Proverbs 8:13). Always ask yourself the question, "Is this a weed, or not?"

PRAYER: Give us the wisdom and strength to withstand the schemes of the devil.