

Deception

developed 4/9/96; reviewed 10/18/96; revised 11/03

- I. Believers must guard against deceit in every form.
 - A. The deceitfulness of riches (Matt. 13:22). This is the pitfall of the thorny ground Christian. (Also Mk. 4:19).
 - B. Being deceived concerning the redeemed and the lost (1st Cor. 6:9).
 - C. Being deceived concerning unhealthy associations (1st Cor. 15:33).
 - D. The believer can be deceived (led astray) from devotion to Christ (2nd Cor. 11:3).
 - E. The believer is not to be deceived regarding decisions and consequences (Gal. 6:7).
 - F. It is an element of the believer's growth in grace and knowledge when the deceptions of men no longer toss the believer's faith around (Eph. 4:14).
 - G. The Rapture and 2nd Advent are often objects of false teaching and deceit (2nd Thess. 2:3).
 - H. During times of apostasy, some will fall away from the faith into areas of deceit (doctrines of demons) (1st Tim. 4:1).
 - I. The deceitfulness of sin is a snare for any believer, and the safeguard against it is the encouragement that is offered by the assembly (Heb. 3:13).
 - J. The believer is not to be deceived regarding the source of all provision -- God the Father (Jms. 1:16).
- II. We are called deceivers
 - A. Satan will call the believer the deceiver (Matt. 27:63).
 - B. The believer is often accused of being the deceiver (2nd Cor. 6:8).
- III. Deceit is a part of fallen humanity
 - A. Deceit proceeds naturally out of the heart (Mk. 7:22).
 - B. Deceit is the activity of the son of the devil, enemy of righteousness (Acts 13:10).
 - C. Fallen humanity, in being given over by the Father, is filled with deceit, etc. (Rom. 1:29).
 - D. It is the nature of the unbeliever to be a deceiver (Rom. 3:13).
 - E. The old self (unbeliever) is corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit (Eph. 4:22).
 - F. The unbeliever is, by nature, a deceived one (Tit. 3:3).
- IV. Beware false teachers!
 - A. Beware of the false teachers! They cause dissensions and hindrances (Rom. 16:18).
 - B. Beware the false teachers! They are false apostles! (2nd Cor. 11:13)
 - C. Beware false teachers. Their deceptive words are empty words. They are sons of disobedience, and the wrath of God comes upon them (Eph. 5:6).
 - D. Beware false teachers! They upset whole families! Their goal is money (sordid gain) (Tit. 1:10,11).
 - E. Beware false teachers! (1st Jn. 2:26; 3:7; 2nd Jn. 7)
- V. Self Deception (Pride)
 - A. Wisdom self-deception (1st Cor. 3:18).
 1. Wise in this age.
 - a. The crafty are caught in their own craftiness (v.19).
 - b. Their reasonings are useless (v.20).
 - c. Professing to be wise, they are really fools (Rom. 1:22).
 - d. The wisdom of this age is demonic (Jms. 3:15).
 2. Foolish.
 - a. Hold fast to what is foolish to this age: the cross (1st Cor. 1:18).
 - b. This is our source of all power (v.18,24) and wisdom (v.24).
 - c. God's wisdom is not of this age (1st Cor. 2:6-8).
 - d. This evil, counterfeit system has a deceptive wisdom (Col. 2:23).

3. (True) Wisdom.
 - a. Wisdom is vindicated (Matt. 11:19).
 - b. This wisdom will be on universal, eternal display (Eph. 3:10).
 - c. Present application (Eph. 5:15-17).
 - 1) Walk with wisdom, not foolishness.
 - 2) Understand what the will of God is.
 - d. Where do we learn this wisdom? From the Scriptures (2nd Tim. 3:15).
 - e. How do I obtain this wisdom? Ask the Father to provide it (Jms 1:5).

B. Achievement self-deception (Gal. 6:3).

1. Is something.
 - a. The proper perspective of my self worth is equal to sound judgment (Rom. 12:3).
 - b. My proper attitude is not conceit, but fear (Rom. 11:20).
2. Is nothing.
 - a. I have no claim to instruction (1st Cor. 7:10).
 - b. I have no claim to labor (1st Cor. 15:10).
 - c. I have no claim *even to my being* (1st Cor. 15:10).
3. (True) Something.
 - a. A living stone, choice and precious in the sight of God (1st Pet. 2:4,5).
 - b. A people for God's own possession (1st Pet. 2:9).
 - c. I have worth in God's sight (Matt. 6:26; 10:30,31; Lk. 12:24).

C. Religious self-deception (Jms. 1:26).

1. Religious. No internal change takes place. Only externals, but they are not lasting. He forgets what kind of person he used to be, and so he returns to being that person. He is stained by the world. He does not set aside his filthiness and wickedness.
2. Doers. Internal changes occur, as He works within us to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). Character produces work. Fruit is born (Matt. 3:8; 7:16,20). The result of these internal changes is that I now can produce external deeds (Jms. 1:22).
3. Pure and undefiled religion. We are concerned for the welfare of others, and are not just out to please ourselves (Rom. 15:1). We keep ourselves unstained by the world (Jms. 1:27; Rev. 3:4).

D. Spiritual self-deception (1st Jn. 1:8).

1. Have no sin (Job 15:14-16; Rom. 3:10ff,23; Jms. 3:2).
2. Confess our sin (1st Jn. 1:9; Ps. 32:5; 51:1-4; Prov. 28:13).
3. Ultimately have no sin (Matt. 5:48; Heb. 12:23; Phil. 3:12,15).

VI. Closing Principles

- A. Our message is one of truth (1st Thess. 2:3).
- B. Deception is a particular vulnerability for women (1st Tim. 2:14).
- C. Evil is progressive, and centers in deception (2nd Tim. 3:13).
- D. Our great example is Christ (1st Pet. 2:22).