

Deceit

Deceit is a form of lying. Deceit is trying to make someone believe something is true when it is not. Deceit is usually used to either get something that was not earned or harm another person in some way. Deceit is not the way of a Christian. No one can deceive God. In this lesson we will look at what the Bible has to say about deceit used to cause harm or by turning people from God.

How does God feel about it?

Psalm 5:6 “Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.” The Lord abhors deceitful people! Can you imagine how much God must abhor those that try to pervert the Gospel by teaching false doctrine? I would hate to stand before God on Judgement Day being a person that, for my own gain, knowingly taught people false doctrine and lead them away from the actual truth taught in the Bible. Wow!

Psalm 119:118 “Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood.” When someone is being deceitful, they are being false. When someone is being a liar, they are deceitful. God does not want us to be deceitful false people. Deceitful people cause harm to other people, and often this is done for some kind of personal gain. Do you believe God will accept this type of behavior? How can we help spread the Word of God if people believe us to be deceitful people?

Proverbs 24:28 “Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.” God does not want us to lie to one another or make up false stories about each other. It is truly harmful behavior to make up false stories about each other, to cause them harm, or help us get some kind of gain. God does not accept this kind of behavior. We would certainly not want others to do this to us would we?

Mark 7:20-23 “And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” A person defiles themselves before God by choosing to do any of the sinful behavior Mark speaks of. Did you notice deceit, or lying, is right beside murder, adultery, and stealing? Mankind tends to see different types of sin differently. We might see murder as worse than lying. We might see some lies as “little white lies,” as if that makes them less bad. God does not see big and little sins; He just sees sin. To God all sin is equal, it is just sin and unacceptable to Him. As a Christian we can not be involved in lies and deceit, if we are we must truly repent. Being deceitful equals being defiled before God.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.” Christians can not walk in lies and deceit, this type of behavior must be put aside. If we are a deceitful person our own soul is in jeopardy unless we repent. How can we possibly hope to carry the Gospel to others if we are seen as a deceivers?

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6 “For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.” As Christians we must strive to keep our tongues free from deceit. When Christians share the Word of God with others, they must do so honestly and accurately. Proper teaching of God’s Word is not done by sugar coating it or deceitfulness, it is done truthfully. If we convert someone to a false doctrine, we have not converted them to the actual Gospel, and their soul is still in jeopardy, as is ours for false teaching.

1 Peter 2:1-3 “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” and **1 Peter 3:10-12** “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” Christians must put aside all guile and evil speaking. That certainly includes being required by God to give up lying, doesn’t it? Lets face it most of the time the purpose of lying is to either harm someone or help ourselves, possibly at someone else’s expense. Does that sound very Christian? God calls this behavior sin. God wants us to use our tongues for good not evil, to tell truth not lies.

False teachers and the wicked are deceitful

Proverbs 20:17 “Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.” Sometimes deceit can sound good for a while. However, once deceit is recognized for what it is, no longer does it sound so sweet. False teachers use deceit to trick us. Typically a false teacher is not going to come right out with what they are up to. That is why Christians must study the Bible, to be sure what we hear is the Truth.

Romans 1:29-32 “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Deceit is listed by Paul with many other sins in this scripture. False teachers use deceit, often knowing they are not teaching the Truth. They often gain pleasure by converting people to their doctrine, which is NOT God’s. False teachers that do not repent will lose their souls, and have lead countless other people into sin.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” Paul warns us through God’s

inspiration that some people will try and deceive us. They will even pretend to be from God, like the Pope, Muhammad, and many others. How many countless souls have been led into darkness by these and other deceivers? Christians must be ready to recognize the deceit of a false teacher so they do not fall for their lies.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” False teachers are evil in God’s eyes. They use deceit on others, and perhaps even themselves, and lead people away from God.

Results of Deceitfulness

Psalms 55:23 “But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.” The end result of unrepented of deceitful behavior is losing one’s eternal soul. Is it worth it? Surely we can see it is not.

Proverbs 14:25 “A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.” Ask yourself are you a true or deceitful person? A Christian with the Word of God can save themselves, and help others follow God to salvation as well. A deceiver can not do this.

Jeremiah 9:6-9 “Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people? Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait. Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?” God knows who the deceivers are and will ultimately judge them with eternal destruction.

Faithfull Christians are not deceitful

Ephesians 5:6-7 “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” God wants us to know His Word well enough that we are not easily deceived. If we are deceived by false doctrine, we can become disobedient to God. Because God does not want us to be deceived that means also, He also does not want us to deceive others.

Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Christians must study God’s Word so that we know it when we hear it. Christians must also know Gods Word well enough to know when we are being taught false doctrine. When Christians recognize false doctrine, it is harder to be drawn away from God by it.

Conclusion

We have not, in this lesson, covered every possible way lies and deceit can be used. We focused on lying and deceit used to harm or by turning people from God. Hopefully, this kind of behavior is not in your life, but if it is please take the time to change now before it is too late.