

THE DEFENSES AGAINST DECEPTION

1. Text: Romans 16:17-19
2. This is our second lesson on the dangerous concept of deception. This lesson will help us deal with this destructive problem.
3. Let's explore five defenses against it.

I. **Understanding Ourselves**

1. We can deceive ourselves! You and I are not immune.
2. I Corinthians 3:18 Let no one deceive himself.
3. I John 1:8 If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves.
4. James 1:22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
5. James 1:26 If he thinks he's religious and doesn't bridle his tongue he deceives his own heart and his religion is useless.

II. **Understand The Natural Learning Process**

1. Normally more knowledge helps. Me and magic. Pennies and dollars. Glass and diamonds.
2. We took on our religious values in our youth when we were not qualified to evaluate.
3. Religious truths are usually not evaluated like others by an objective, accepted standard.
4. Most deception comes in direct proportion to confidence in teacher, preacher, parent, etc.

III. **Understanding Deceptive Desires**

1. Ephesians 4:22 uses the term "deceitful desires," meaning what we desire or really want can deceive us.
2. Quotation: The wish is the father of the thought. The desire is the mother of the deception. James 1:13-15.
3. Apply: Matthew 13:22 The deceitfulness of riches.

IV. **Understanding The Misuse Of Language**

1. Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words.
2. Romans 16:17-18 Note those who by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.
3. Ephesians 4:14 We should no longer be children tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the trickery, cunning, evasion, deceit, plotting.
4. Clarity in language is critical to dealing with deception.

V. **Understanding The Need To Love The Truth**

1. II Thessalonians 2:10 Those who perish are deceived and they are deceived because they do not have a love of the truth.
2. II Corinthians 4:2 Paul speaks of those who "handle the word of God deceitfully."
3. We must have a passion for knowing and obeying the truth.

Conclusion:

