

# SELF DECEPTION

(PART 2 of 3)  
JULY 11, 2022

**GALATIANS 6:3 NKJV – (3)** For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

## The red flags of Self-Deception:

**1) The over importance of SELF-ESTEEM!** In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin. The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good (**Psalms 36:2-3**). The person who is truly in right relationship with Jesus Christ will not be full of self-pride. People who have to brag about themselves often don't really have much to brag about at all. If your heart is right with Him, God will lift you up and people will see Jesus in you and give God the glory for all that is accomplished through your efforts.

**2) Self-Deception always results in SPIRITUAL BONDAGE!** In **Romans 7:11**, Paul describes the role of deception in his spiritual bondage: "For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death." There is a chain of spiritual bondage and blindness that is bound around the heart, ears and eyes so that the self-deceived person cannot understand their predicament, hear the voice of the spirit or see the Holy Spirit moving to free them. They often are so deceived that they believe they are the only ones right and everyone else is wrong. One who is caught up in self-deception can only see the faults of others but none of their own faults. They are quick to judge others but won't judge their own hearts. By dwelling on their own self-esteem and lifting their own lives as shining examples for the rest of us to follow, it is not long before they have convinced themselves that they deserve some special treatment.

**3) The level of CONCEIT that is manifest in our lives!** "...they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions" (**1 Timothy 6:4**). When people start saying how good they are, how much experience they have and do so with an arrogant tone and a proud spirit, that's when we are ready to stop listening. When are we anything? Only when the Jesus places His anointing upon us and gives us the power to accomplish a work for Him!

**4) Careless Hearing!** "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (**James 1:22**). Careless Hearing is when we come to the House of God and hear the message, but we don't really hear what God is trying to say to us! Another term that we often hear is "Selective Hearing". We hear only what we want to hear or what lines up with our already established beliefs. We don't want to hear anything that might tell us that we are wrong.

Next week we will look at the last three red flags of "Self- Deception."

**SCRIPTURE READING: JEREMIAH 2:34-35**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** We lie best when we lie to ourselves.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"