

Deception

World history is filled with horrible examples of deception that have impacted mankind & provide us a warning ...

- Satan's lie to Eve
- The Trojan Horse (Ancient Greece)
- The Salem Witch Trials (1692-1693)
- Hitler's Propaganda Machine (1930s-1940s)
- The Ponzi Scheme (1920s)
- Enron Scandal (2001)
- The Tobacco Industry's Denial of Health Risks

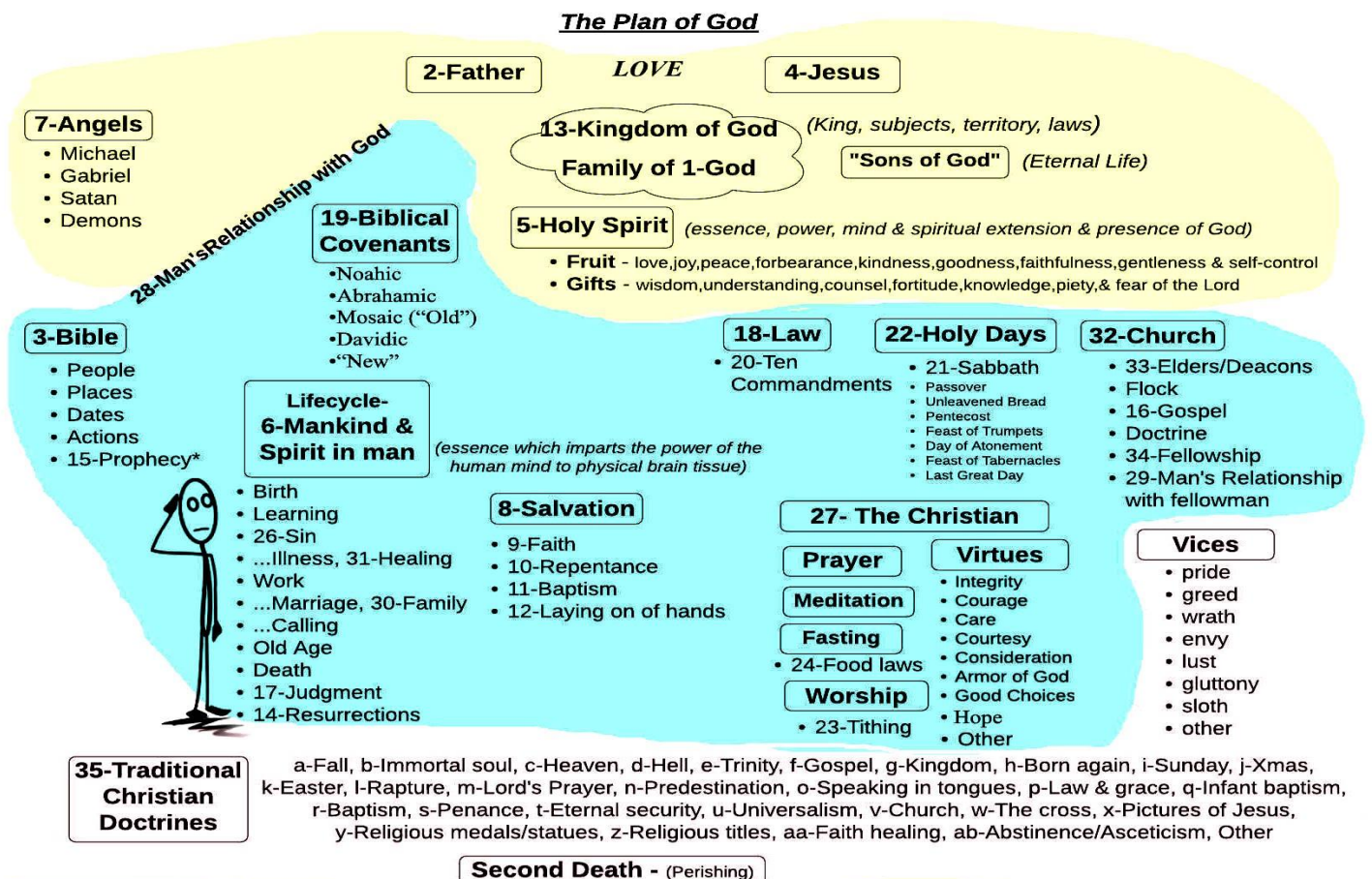
In scripture God's people are given some words of comfort ...

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth

Does God promise that Christians have no need to worry about deception?



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

Do all 27 NT books warn about Deception?

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one **deceives** you.'

Mark 13:5-6 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: 'Take heed that no one **deceives** you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am He," and will deceive many.'

Luke 21:8 And He said: 'Take heed that you not be **deceived**. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am He," and, "The time has drawn near." Therefore do not go after them.'

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, & does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he **speaks a lie**, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar & the father of it.

Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, **speaking perverse things**, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Romans 16:18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, & by smooth words and flattering speech **deceive** the hearts of the simple.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be **deceived**. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such are false apostles, **deceitful** workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."



Galatians 6:7 Do not be **deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one **deceive** you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

Philippians 3:18-19 For many (**deceivers**) walk, of whom I have told you often, & now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, & whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy & empty **deceit**, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, & not according to Christ

1 Thessalonians 2:3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in **deceit**

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying** wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving** spirits & doctrines of demons."

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men & impostors will grow worse & worse, **deceiving** & being deceived

Titus 1:10-11 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and **deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain."

Philemon ... (Implied theme) Though deception is not directly mentioned in Philemon, the theme of reconciliation suggests avoiding deceit & manipulation in relationships.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the **deceitfulness** of sin.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving** yourselves.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world."

2 John 1:7 For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a **deceiver** and an antichrist.

3 John 1:9-10 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with **malicious** words."

Jude 1:4 For certain men have **crept in** unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who **deceived** them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast & the false prophet are. & they will be tormented day & night forever & ever



NKJV Words warning about Deception

1. Deceive	12.Lie	22.False	33.Entice
2. Deceived	13.Lied	accusations	34.Enticed
3. Deceives	14.Liar	23.Hypocrite	35.Seduce
4. Deceiving	15.False	24.Hypocrisy	36.Seduction
5. Deceiver	16.Falsehood	25.Delusion	37.Smooth
6. Deceivers	17.False prophet	26.Deluded	words
7. Deception	18.False witness	27.Error	38.Flattering
8. Deceit	19.False teaching	28.Fraud	speech
9. Deceitful	20.False teachers	29.Cunning	39.Evil schemes
10.Deceitfully	21.False	30.Crafty	40.Lying spirit
11.Deceitfulness	brethren	31.Perversion	
		32.Wiles	



(7 points on) How Not to be Deceived GTA 4/24/82

Rev 12 Satan deceives the whole world. Everyone knows what it is like to be deceived

1. Realize the source of your present knowledge

- You have learned from many sources, School, TV, friends, Church, parents, books
- Make sure the foundational things you believe are correct, and you have proven them

2. Do not depend on your *present* knowledge to make a decision

- you may need to study more, ask others who are knowledgeable, or set the topic aside to allow some time to pass...don't jump into a decision...carefully evaluate

3. Do not depend on the ministry alone for all the answers

- They are not experts in everything, they can have biases, they are not perfect...put your trust not in men (blindly). They also have been willingly deceived by wanting approval, wanting to be "in", to be right with others, wanting to be "in authority", not "out of line", part of what the mainline thinking was.

4. Beware of attractive ideas

- It may be designed to appeal to your vanity, or prejudice

5. Admit that you like to be "stroked" (complimented, respected)

- People need to be accepted, and respected ... so appeals to your vanity can be effective at getting you to lower your guard...Salesmen often compliment the "discerning buyer of good taste" ... suckers for someone to build up their ego... be on your guard

6. Beware of "brand new ideas"

- Be open minded but don't be gullible. There are many brilliant, gifted, scholars who are deceived, who can dazzle you with words (and will if you let them). Examine your motives for wanting to believe something new, put the teaching to the test, set the idea aside and come back to it... be objective

7. Put God in your knowledge

- God's word is truth. God's law made David wiser than his teachers...The Bible says a group called the "very elect" cannot be deceived...(but don't be so vain to think you are invincible)

Art of Deception - Ron Dart 4/83

1. Don't try to Reason with Devil - He will twist truth with technicalities eg Satan & Eve.
2. Complexity - Too many things to look at at once--Info Overload eg Football plays to deceive opponent (Matt 24:24 Many signs & wonders)
3. Obscurity - eg Magicians tricks. Quoting from obscure texts. Quoting from friendly sources 2Cor 4:3-4 Satan veils the true Gospel
4. Misdirection - eg Getting people to look at back of room to conceal something Blaming Satan for ones' own shortcomings. Straw Man - Luke 22 - Judas kiss
5. Implication - eg Asking if something has changed ... and even if nothing changes people will think so ... Gen 37:31-33 Joseph's brothers bring a blood stained coat to their father
6. Misinformation - eg. Wartime planting of false info on corpse. Out of context quotes. Creative Rumors ... Matt 28:12-15 Guards lie about the resurrection
7. Innuendo - eg. Ask someone to Pray for someone because they are having "problems" Gen 39:14-15 Potiphar's wife accusing Joseph of sexual assault because he ran

Remember ...

- Deceiver always has the advantage. They may be evil or sincere.
- Don't be gullible ... healthy skepticism is good ... 1Thes 5:21 "Prove all things" is a skeptical attitude
- We have a right not to Listen... Solomon "Pr 14:7 ¶ **Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not [in him] the lips of knowledge.**" Help Sheep... don't tolerate false teachers
- If you like to look at works from other churches ... be vigilant ... every evidence/assumption/innuendo must be examined

An example ... A new booklet from another fellowship ...

a former member sent to me (for my comments)



Red flags - That it may be deception

- Oh... No tithing required! **THAT's an attractive idea!**

However...

- You need to accept his speculation that EVERY Church of God minister is evil, greedy & owns many mansions & jet planes !?!
- You need to accept Israel never ACTUALLY tithed in the OT
- You need to reject Jesus' words to the Pharisees that they should be tithing little herbs AND not lose sight of Justice, Mercy & Faith (Matt 23:23) because ... ALL of Jesus' life (before the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost) was still dealing with "Old Testament" teachings ... (**Ignore Jesus' life, words & examples for us???** Ugh!)
- You need to believe the great commission was ONLY for the apostles - not to the church ... Even when the NT has examples of deacons evangelizing, etc
- You need to accept the church will be tiny scattered people with no job to do -- no Work!

Logical Fallacies

Fallacies of Distraction

- * **False Dilemma:** two choices are given when in fact there are three options
- * **From Ignorance:** (ad ignorantiam) because something is not known to be true, it is assumed to be false
- * **Shifting the burden of proof:** person making an assertion must prove it... something is not true unless proven otherwise
- * **Slippery Slope:** a series of increasingly unacceptable consequences is drawn
- * **Complex Question:** (loaded question, wife beating question, fallacy of interrogation, fallacy of presupposition) two unrelated points are conjoined as a single proposition

Appeals to Motives in Place of Support

- * **Appeal to Force:** (ad Baculum) the reader is persuaded to agree by force
- * **Appeal to Pity:** (ad misericordiam) the reader is persuaded to agree by sympathy
- * **Consequences:** the reader is warned of unacceptable consequences
- * **Prejudicial Language:** value or moral goodness is attached to believing the author
- * **Popularity:** (ad populum) (bandwagon) a proposition is argued to be true because it appeals to the group
- * **Numbers:** (ad numeram) asserts that the more people who support or believe something ... the more likely it is correct
- * **Appeal to repetition:** (ad nauseum) holds a belief is more likely to be true the more often it is heard

Changing the Subject

- * **Attacking the Person:** (ad hominem)

- (1) the person's character is attacked
- (2) the person's circumstances are noted
- (3) the person does not practice what is preached
- (4) the person's motives are attacked by alleging their actions are formed from selfish interests (poisoning the well)

- * **Appeal to Authority:** (ad verecundiam)

- (1) the authority is not an expert in the field
- (2) experts in the field disagree
- (3) the authority was joking, drunk, or in some other way not being serious

- * **Anonymous Authority:** the authority in question is not named

- * **Argument from Intimidation:** asserts a person's statement is false and then uses this as evidence they are immoral

- * **Style Over Substance:** the manner in which an argument/arguer is presented is felt to affect the truth of the conclusion

- * **Appeal to History/Reverence:** (ad antiquitatem) asserting something is right because it is old -"the way it's always been"

- * **Genetic fallacy:** attempt to minimize significance of something by attacking the simple origins/earliest antecedents

- * **Appeal to Newness:** (ad novitatem) asserting something is correct because it is new or newer

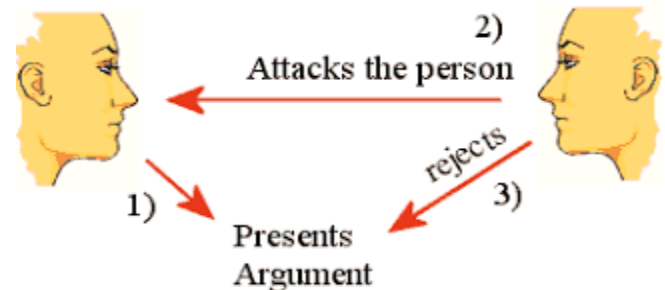
- * **Appeal to money:** (ad crumenam) believing money is a criterion of correctness; those with money are right

- * **Appeal to poorness:** (ad lazarum) believing that the poor are sounder and more virtuous than the rich

- * **Common folks appeal:** try to secure acceptance of a conclusion by identifying with everyday concerns of audience

- * **Misuse of Appeal to laughter:** Stifle serious consideration and divert attention from issues via jokes & laughter

- * **Red Herring:** irrelevant material introduced to divert attention away from points made, toward a different conclusion



Inductive Fallacies

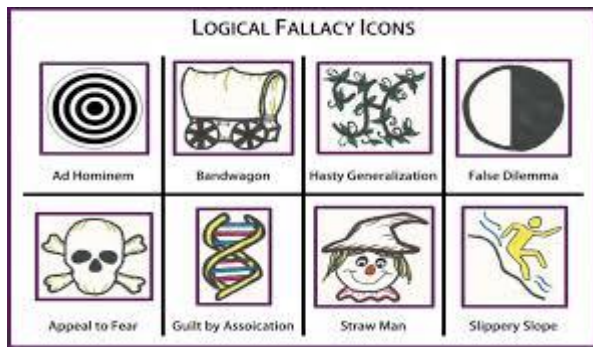
- * **Hasty Generalization:** the sample is too small to support an inductive generalization about a population
- * **Sweeping Generalization:** (dicto simpliciter) general rule applied when feature of the situation renders rule inapplicable
- * **Unrepresentative Sample:** the sample is unrepresentative of the sample as a whole
- * **False Analogy:** the two objects or events being compared are relevantly dissimilar
- * **Slothful Induction:** the conclusion of a strong inductive argument is denied despite the evidence to the contrary
- * **Fallacy of Exclusion:** evidence which would change the outcome of an inductive argument is excluded from consideration
- * **Card Stacking / Special Pleading:** stacks evidence to facilitate a desired outcome

Fallacies Involving Statistical Syllogisms

- * **Accident:** a generalization is applied when circumstances suggest that there should be an exception
- * **Converse Accident:** an exception is applied in circumstances where a generalization should apply

Causal Fallacies

- * **Post Hoc:** because one thing follows another, it is held to cause the other
- * **No Cause established:** (non causa pro causa) cause identified has not been proven to be the cause
- * **Joint effect:** one thing is held to cause another when in fact they are both the joint effects of underlying cause(s)
- * **Insignificant/False cause:** one thing is held to cause another, but it is insignificant compared to other causes of the effect
- * **Wrong Direction:** the direction between cause and effect is reversed
- * **Complex Cause:** the cause identified is only a part of the entire cause of the effect
- * **Many questions:** (plurium interrogationum) occurs when a questioner demands a simple answer of a complex question



Missing the Point

- * **Begging the Question:** (principio principii) the truth of the conclusion is assumed by the premises
- * **Irrelevant Conclusion:** (ignoratio elenchi) an argument in defense of a conclusion instead proves a different conclusion
- * **Straw Man:** the author attacks an argument different from (and weaker than) the opposition's best argument

Fallacies of Ambiguity

- * **Equivocation:** the same term is used with two different meanings
- * **Amphiboly:** the structure of a sentence allows two different interpretations
- * **Accent:** the emphasis on a word or phrase suggests a meaning contrary to what the sentence actually says
- * **Ambiguity of significance:** Drawing an improper conclusion by misinterpreting the importance of a statement

Category Errors

- * **Composition:** because the attributes of the parts of a whole have a certain property, it is argued that the whole has that property
- * **Division:** because the whole has a certain property, it is argued that the parts have that property

Non Sequitur

- * **Argumentative leap:** (non Sequitur) Jump to a conclusion not based on the evidence presented
- * **Affirming the Consequent:** (converting a conditional) any argument of the form: If A then B, B, therefore A
- * **Denying the Antecedent:** any argument of the form: If A then B, Not A, thus Not B
- * **Inconsistency:** asserting that contrary or contradictory statements are both true

Syllogistic Errors

- * **Fallacy of Four Terms:** a syllogism has four terms
- * **Undistributed Middle:** two separate categories are said to be connected because they share a common property
- * **Illicit Major:** the predicate of the conclusion talks about all of something, but the premises only mention some cases of the term in the predicate
- * **Illicit Minor:** the subject of the conclusion talks about all of something, but the premises only mention some cases of the term in the subject
- * **Fallacy of Exclusive Premises:** a syllogism has two negative premises
- * **Fallacy of Drawing an Affirmative Conclusion From a Negative Premise:** as the name implies
- * **Existential Fallacy:** a particular conclusion is drawn from universal premises

Fallacies of Explanation

- * **Subverted Support** (The phenomenon being explained doesn't exist)
- * **Non-support** (Evidence for the phenomenon being explained is biased)
- * **Untestability** (The theory which explains cannot be tested)
- * **Limited Scope** (The theory which explains can only explain one thing)
- * **Limited Depth** (The theory which explains does not appeal to underlying causes)

Fallacies of Definition

- * **Too Broad** (The definition includes items which should not be included)
- * **Too Narrow** (The definition does not include all the items which should be included)
- * **Failure to Elucidate** (The definition is vague -- more difficult to understand than the word or concept being defined)
- * **Circular Definition** (The definition includes the term being defined as a part of the definition)
- * **Conflicting Conditions** (The definition is self-contradictory... contradictory assumptions)
- * **Reification:** (hypostatization) when an abstract concept is treated as a concrete thing
- * **Name tagging:** assuming that a name or label given to something is evidence for conclusions about it
- * **Simple Ambiguity:** establish a conclusion by interpreting a statement in a manner not justified by the context



10 Principles to Evaluate Doctrine

(Ron Dart 6/82)

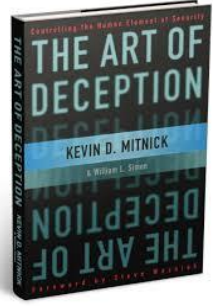
1. Check with Bible Is 8:19
2. List and evaluate scriptural references in context...eliminate nonessential references... then examine translations to see if consistency or perhaps bias or disagreement among translators Eph 2:15 Luke 13:6
Make sure the scripture says what people claim it says?
What does the scripture mean? Col 2:16
3. Is the doctrine oversimplified? What are the consequences in both directions
Is the Doctrine based on a technicality, or sound consistent theology
4. Whose Doctrine is this? Doctrine = Teaching (not necessarily truth) Evaluate the motivations of the teacher... Does he have an agenda or lack of objectivity requiring a greater burden of proof?
5. Examine the assumptions that are prerequisite to their teaching... Usually they are not stated EG if you accept the immortality of the soul, the Catholic interp of doctrines makes sense What is their philosophy? Deterministic, existentialism etc... Where does this new teaching go?
6. Is this doctrine rational? Does it make sense?
7. Has the teacher made his case? Sift relevant from irrelevant
If it takes too long or too many dependencies to make a case, it is likely not well thought out
8. Take your time. Some things will happen whether you know or understand it.
9. Listen to your heart or gut. Usually intuition is pretty good ... you may have to overrule it but don't ignore it
10. Pray about it... and be confident

Ron Dart 8/82 - Why not Keep the Holy Days

1. Watch for “loaded questions”
 - Questions that assume information that is not yet proven...
 - The question determines the entire direction of your inquiry – and how you will lay out your evidence so make sure you ask the **right** questions
2. Watch for “loaded words” and words that are difficult to define. Get people to define their terms. Terms like “legalism”, “Jewish”, etc can be negative, and ambiguous...



Jim's attempt to list ... All of the forms of Deception that are "out there"



1. Personal and Interpersonal Deceptions

- **Lying in Relationships:** Infidelity, omission of important facts, false promises
 - **False Credentials:** Exaggerating qualifications or achievements in resumes
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2. Business and Consumer Deceptions

- **False Advertising:** Misleading claims about products or services
 - **Hidden Fees:** Concealing costs so customers are made aware of after a transaction has begun
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3. Media and Information Deceptions

- **Fake News:** Spreading false or biased information to manipulate public opinion
 - **Deepfakes:** Artificially generated videos or images used to impersonate people or spread lies
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4. Political and Government Deceptions

- **Propaganda:** Manipulating information to control public perception to promote an agenda
 - **Spin:** Presenting information in a biased way to favor a political figure or policy.
 - **Corruption:** Hiding unethical activities, such as bribery or embezzlement, to maintain power.
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5. Technological Deceptions

- **Phishing and Scams:** Fraudulent attempts to obtain information by pretending to be trustworthy
 - **Manipulative Algorithms:** Using recommendation engines to exploit psychological biases
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6. Health and Wellness Deceptions

- **False Health Claims:** Promoting unverified or pseudoscientific remedies as cures.
 - **Diet Scams:** Selling ineffective or harmful diet products with promises of quick results.
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7. Financial and Economic Deceptions

- **Fraudulent Investment Schemes:** Encouraging investments in non-existent or risky ventures while hiding risks.
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8. Social and Cultural Deceptions

- **Superficial Activism:** Engaging in performative actions (e.g., "slacktivism") without meaningful impact.
 - **Astroturfing:** Creating fake grassroots movements to give the illusion of widespread support.
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9. Workplace and Organizational Deceptions

- **Greenwashing:** Companies falsifying their environmental efforts to appear eco-friendly.
 - **Toxic Productivity Culture:** Promoting the idea that overwork equals value or success
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10. Educational Deceptions

- **Diploma Mills:** Offering illegitimate degrees without requiring academic effort or standards.
- **Grade Inflation:** Awarding higher grades than deserved to improve institutional rankings or student satisfaction.

11. Environmental and Sustainability Deceptions

- **Carbon Offsetting Misrepresentation:** Companies claiming to offset emissions through dubious or unverifiable projects.
- **Biodegradable Labels:** Marketing products as biodegradable or recyclable without meeting proper standards or infrastructure for disposal.
- **Hiding Environmental Damage:** Downplaying the ecological harm caused by industries like mining, deforestation, or oil extraction.

12. Cultural and Entertainment Deceptions

- **Celebrity Endorsements:** Promoting products or services they don't actually use or believe in, just for monetary gain.
- **Scripted Reality Shows:** Misleading audiences into believing staged scenarios
- **Art Forgery:** Creating counterfeit art pieces and selling them as originals.

13. Spiritual and Religious Deceptions

- **False Prophets and Cults:** Individuals or organizations manipulating followers for financial or personal gain.
- **Prosperity Gospel Scams:** Promising financial blessings in exchange for donations.
- **Exploiting Faith for Power:** Using religion as a guise to control or exploit others politically or economically.

14. Scientific and Academic Deceptions

- **Fake Research:** Publishing fraudulent studies with fabricated data to gain prestige or funding
- **Plagiarism:** Copying others' work and passing it off as original.

15. Legal and Judicial Deceptions

- **Selective Justice:** Applying laws inconsistently based on social, economic, or political status
- **False Accusations:** Falsely accusing individuals to tarnish reputations or gain legal advantages

16. Digital and Online Deceptions

- **Social Bots:** Automated accounts to spread misinformation or create an illusion of popularity
- **Manipulative App Designs:** Exploiting psychological tricks (e.g., infinite scrolling) to keep users engaged.



Conclusion...

Value & seek the truth & **live a way of life that reflects knowledge of the truth**

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.