

***CALLED***  
***TO***



**FREEDOM**

# Learning to Live Like Free People

**Galatians 5:16-26**

Learning to  
Avoid  
Satan's  
Deceptions



Understanding  
deceptions that  
ensnare us  
once again  
in slavery



- The very nature of deception means that those who are being deceived don't realize that they are being deceived
- II Timothy 4:3-4

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink tank top, dark sunglasses, and denim shorts, is sitting on the edge of a large, reddish-brown rock formation. She is leaning back slightly, looking towards the camera with a smile. The background shows a vast blue ocean under a clear blue sky, with a coastline and hills visible in the distance.

# Understanding deception

- **Difference between deception and a bad choice**
  - When you do something wrong— and *you know it's wrong*— that's not deception.
  - That's making a really poor choice.

**The deception here  
is the idea that there will  
be no consequence to what  
you're doing.**



Galatians 6:7-9

II Corinthians 5:10

II Thessalonians 1:6-10

# Understanding deception



- Difference between deception and a bad choice
  - When you do something wrong—and *you know it's wrong*—that's not deception. That's making a really poor choice. The only deception in this is the idea that there will be no consequence to what you're doing.
  - True deception is much deeper. It comes when you get swept away by a wrong idea, but *you've become convinced that it is truth*.
    - Celibate priests
    - Liberation theology

# Understanding this type of deception

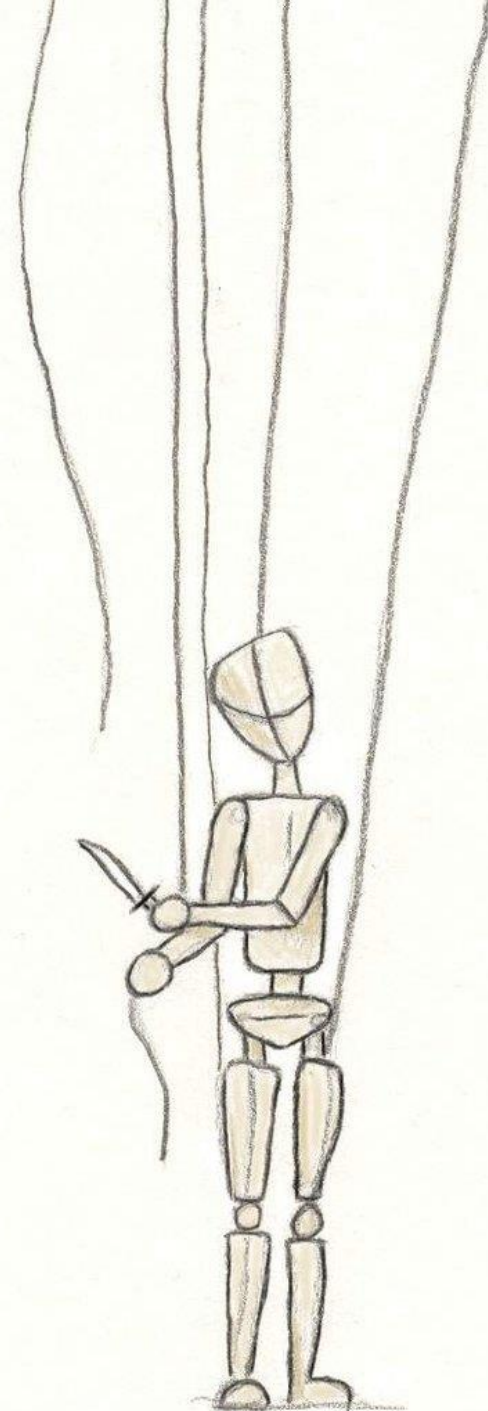


- The nature of this kind of deception is a work of fear that begins with questioning.
  - Adam and Eve believed what God said about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil -- until another voice came along and told them they should question that truth.
  - Then, they started to lean away from the truth through their own questioning: *Is that what He really said? Is He trying to keep something from us?*
- Instead of going back to the Source, they let questioning lead them away. That's deception.



# Inoculation Theory

- Beliefs, or opinions can be made more resistant to future challenges.
- Become aware of the potential vulnerability of a belief
- A weak argument is presented in the inoculation message,
  - Strong enough to keep the receiver defensive, but weak enough to not actually change those preexisting ideas.
  - Allow them to create arguments in favor of their preexisting thoughts.
  - The more active receivers become in their defense the more it will strengthen their own attitudes, beliefs, or opinions.



# Prepare ahead of time

- I Timothy 4:15-16
  - To take heed means to beware, perceive and consider carefully.
  - That means we need to prepare ahead of time to judge those things that present themselves as truth. And we should be able to discern quickly and accurately, using the knowledge we have built up.
- Guarding against deception is proactive.
  - Don't wait until something comes up to try and figure out if it is truth or deception. Be ready for it.
  - How do you get ready?
    - You spend regular time in the Word of God. And don't let the input of the world outweigh the input of God's Word in your life. Your time praying and fellowshiping with the Lord is the greatest preparation for standing firm in the last days.
    - When some new thought or idea comes along—like the idea that homosexuality is acceptable—you won't be swept away by the ever-changing cultural norms. You'll stand firm in the light of the truth you already know.
    - If you analyze something with your own thoughts and opinions, you are setting yourself up for deception. As believers, we have our own measuring stick—another foundation on which to base our perceptions. That measuring stick is God's Word.
- The Bible tells us that large numbers of people in the Body of Christ will be led astray, Luke 21:8. That warning is not meant to scare us, but to help us. When we prepare ahead of time to combat the devil's tactics, we are guarding against deception.

