**Self Deception**

***Delusion****: gettin****g*** *what we want through luck, success or even God’s blessing will produce* ***happiness****.*

***Truth:*** *becoming what you were designed to be & living out your divine purpose daily produces* ***fulfillment***

1. **By design, God has created mankind with an emptiness within, representing the needs in our inner being & these needs are experienced as desires – cravings, longings or yearnings – Jesus: hunger & thirst.**
2. We were originally designed to be filled with God who would produce spiritual growth within us and enable us to express His character & love – rivers of living water.

**Jer 2:13** – God is described as the living water; **Jn 4:10-11** Jesus offered Himself as living water to the woman at the well; ***John 7:37-39*** *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is* ***thirsty******(craving****), let him come to Me and* ***drink (faith in gospel****). 38 "He who* ***believes in Me****, as the Scripture said, '****From******(outward****) his* ***innermost being (koilos – empty place)*** *shall* ***flow rivers of living water****.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit……*Original design *-* GHS fills the emptiness of our hearts.

1. Jesus, born with human needs, a perfect human nature, indwelt & filled with the Spirit (GHS) from birth, in constant contact with God-Father (GF), attached His human needs to GF & GHS as His primary source to fulfill His needs/desires with people as a secondary source – in proper proportion & place.
2. Jesus grew up as a human and grew spiritually through the principles contained in the scriptures

***Luke 2:52*** *And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

1. **Born in Adam, we are spiritually dead (unable to attach to God), so as children we attached our needs to people as primary source but as believers we seek to make God our primary through spiritual growth.**
2. Jesus rejected Kosmic lies & embraced the truth of the word – we embrace Kosmic lies & we don’t even know truth exists until we are saved – **love, admiration & respect from people is our answer**
3. When we are saved and become positive to truth, we already have a fully formed **self & people centered,** worldly belief system that we have made **our habit of life** – **default operating system**.

***Romans 6:16*** *Do you not know that when you yield yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you* ***continue as slaves of whom you obey****, either sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

* Slavery – made our worldly ideas into habitual, automatic behaviors – unconscious habits behaviors
1. Because we view love, approval, acceptance & respect **from people** as our primary solution for our needs, people’s love is our primary pursuit, resulting in self-deceptive relational patterns.
2. **Our OSN fits kosmic lies (people as the source) we believe 🡪 human logic (sight) that we consistently use, falsely programing our automatic behavior patterns and habits of relating to one another:**
* **Repetitive sin patterns**: **root cause** of anger, fear, apathy, pretense, deception, violence is **more than just a selfish nature** 🡪 **false idea & logic** that says that **sin is justified, appropriate or even necessary**
* **Practice** our **self-deception & entitlement beliefs** into **habitual thoughts & behavior patterns**, creating **circular cycles in relationships** – **removing roots of false logic is necessary, to free us from habitual sin.**
1. **Self Deception: kosmic beliefs 🡪 false interpret/logic = irrational expectations: unhealthy relationships**
* Critical that we allow GHS to expose false logic & irrational expectations driving our relational conflicts

**Areas of Self Deception:**

1. **Biology is Reality:**Operate from our biological, animal nature: pursue pleasure & prevent pain
* Personality – “this is just how I am – accept me the way I am” **No!!** grow to be more like Christ
* Inherited biological tendencies: anger, violence, anxiety, fear, addictions, homosexuality - sins
* I was born this way so God or nature must have made me this way, so I am supposed to live this way
1. **Getting what we have decided to want (success) = happiness & that happiness is the correct life goal**

***Eph 4:22*** *you were taught that, with reference to your former manner of life, you take off the old self, which is being corrupted by being* ***dominated by deceitful desires –*** delusion of gratifying desire 🡪 frantic search +H

* **Pursue** **fulfillment:** spiritual development fulfilling our divine design seeking **meaning & purpose in life**
* **Conflict is necessary**: push back from others aids humility 🡪 self-examination continue growing properly
* Celebrities/wealthy have their way, no push back with healthy boundaries – unhinged from reality
1. **People actually possess what we need to fill our empty hearts** – he/she has it but are just too selfish to give it – we are **determined to persuade** them **to change & treat us the way we want = happiness**
* **Conditional Affection**: approval, acceptance, admiration from people because of **human desirability**

**Peter**: change Lord’s mind with human sincerity – offered human courage & loyalty – **God rejects human good**

* Wonder how many times Peter had acted the same way trying to persuade family or a friend
* Marriage conflicts based on incompatibility – bel’s refuse to grow/compromise – pull/push on other
* Basis for love of money 🡪 pursuit of wealth to gain the admiration & approval of people
1. **Rejection: believe we are rejected, abandoned - we are not humanly worth loving or desirable.**
* Adults abandoned by a parent (death, divorce, drugs) as children, blame themselves for the loss
* We can’t find someone to love us the way we want because we are not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enough

**Self-Improvement Programs**: lose weight, tone up, hair, wealth, intellect, position, personality

* **God is in control**: what He allows is for our spiritual good and for His eternal glory – **pray for USA**
* **Identity in Christ:** Spiritual Self Esteem – valuing yourself the same as God values you – **in Christ**
1. **The inevitable result of failing to make people into gods that are able & willing to meet our needs is disappointment, disillusionment, depression, self-depreciation & defense mechanisms**
2. When our false plan to make our own gods out of people doesn’t work, **we blame self** as deficient, undesirable, unworthy – loser or we blame the other(s) who aren’t actually able to give us what we want.
* The plan never could or would work – it is based on the false premise that people can be our gods

Blame self: disappointed, depreciate self (toxic shame), depressed (hopeless), defense (numb, mask)

Blame others: angry, bitter, fearful, persuasion campaign, defensive (denial, walls, perfectionism),

1. **Defense Mechanisms**: emotional numbness (Col 3:21 athumos); pretense (mask) Eph 5:25, 1Jn 1; strongholds (self-protective walls 2Cor 10:4-5); NAP’s (never again policies) – obscure view of reality
2. **God’s will & divine goals for believers:**
3. Transform historical & theological truth into **your personal truth**, square your shoulders & **then totally, honestly & even brutally tell self/others the truth** by **looking in the mirror & then looking at Jesus**.

***2 Cor 3:18*** *But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

1. Stop pretending & posturing that you are walking in the light if you are angry & bitter or trapped in fear, unable to break out of apathy toward God’s word & hardness of heart toward the suffering around you.

***1 John 1:6-10*** *If we say (pretend) that we have fellowship with Him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 8 If we say that we have no sin nature, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we* ***confess (honest, tell the truth)*** *our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1. Live honestly & transparently with loved ones & fellow believers (Eph 4:15 speaking truth in love), seek help if you are trapped in a habitual sin pattern (Gal 6:1), seek capacity to love & serve, not be served.
* Fellowship of believers is a spiritual function characterized by speaking healing truths to one another

***Heb 10:24-25*** *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.*

1. **Eph 4:17-25** – **Taking Off the Lie – Putting on the Truth**

**4:17-19 Walking in Darkness**:

17 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk **no longer** just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

1. Paul is speaking to believers who are either still living like unbelievers or who are in reversionism and have returned to living out of their old man beliefs – that you walk no longer like the Gentiles
2. Both Paul and the Lord Jesus are saying and affirming together that they stop living in this way.
3. The verbs in vs 17-18 are in reverse order (because): These believers first hardened their hearts toward the truth of God’s word like the Exodus generation (Heb 3-4); because they stopped being open to learn, they were filled with ignorance; their ignorance caused them to live in such a way that they were alienated from the life of God; their hardened hearts, ignorant minds & alienation from God filled their foolish hearts with demonic darkness, opening up their hearts to be taken over by demonic emptiness.
4. Living with exposed emptiness within is perhaps the most painful way to live there is – the only way to live like that is to totally numb your emotions so that you feel nothing (callous – vs 19).
5. To counteract being numb, unbelievers & believers moving the wrong direction pursue different forms of sensuality (forms of bodily pleasure) so that they can counteract numbness with illicit pleasures.

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 since indeed you heard Him and were taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

1. False teachers, pretending to know the truth were teaching that God approved of believers continuing to live out their Old Man beliefs, operating from the beliefs they used before they were saved.
2. The majority of believers who ever lived in the Church Age have held to an appearance of walking in the Spirit while holding to their original motives & an ascetic method of operating.
* In a denominational church, many presented emotionalism & niceness yet devoid of truth
1. If a believer has habituated a moral or ascetic way of life & continues to be dominated by their initial old man beliefs, they often appear to be walking by means of the Spirit, yet they are not.

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted by deceitful desires

1. When we are born separated from God, we can only attach our normal desires to people, rather than God and to earthly things rather than heavenly – man centered, earthly oriented treasures
2. Desire is deceitful when we seek gratification through earthly means, apart from God
3. The big lie: if I can gain those things that I have mistakenly believed will gratify my desires & give me happiness, then I will be in a permanent state of happiness.
4. The false ideas that we initially believe in our pursuit of fulfillment, must be confronted, rejected and replaced with the ideas taught in scripture.

23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

1. We renew our minds or our thinking by learning new and better ideas with which we can think.
2. We are renewed in the attitude of our minds by learning God’s word.

24 put on the new self, after *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness & holiness from the truth.

1. By learning more & more pieces of the divine puzzle found in the word of truth, the same ideas that Jesus used to live His earthly life are built into a belief system within the heart of the believer.
2. This belief system is created (***Ktisis – bara***) in the heart of the hungry believer forming beliefs that enable the believer to believe, think, feel & act like Christ – after God’s likeness
3. Once the individual truths are assembled in the heart of the Spirit filled believer, they must be installed into the application center of the heart, replacing the false OM ideas previously installed.

25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one *of you*, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

1. The old man belief system is false, derived from the devil’s propaganda system & naturally deceives us into believing that we are functioning properly and honorably.
2. Rebekah clearly believed that the deceit and manipulations were serving God’s purpose and that He needed her to use these methods to bring about His will.
3. We deceive ourselves & justify holding onto our old ways by telling self: it is too hard to practice awareness/alertness; it is too difficult to find the root motives for our behaviors; God doesn’t really expect us to look that deeply into ourselves…..
4. As we exchange our old beliefs/behaviors for the new man in Christ, we gain the capacity to be totally honest with self and begin to speak the truth in love to one another, enabling the body of Christ to grow.
5. We are able to lay aside our pretense, stop making ourselves look good, become honest about our flaws & weaknesses to live authentic, transparent lives so that others can see us grow.