

DELUSION AND DECEPTION

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Revised: Feb. 9, 2024

PRINCIPLE: In life we are presented with **many persuasive arguments** which lead into **error, deception, and delusion** in the **natural world** and in the end in the **spiritual world**. All of these arguments are **human viewpoint** as opposed to **God's divine viewpoint**, given by revelation in the Bible. (Col. 2:4, 8; 2 Tim. 3:13; Titus 3:3; 2 Pet. 2:13b)

A. Some arguments from the natural world include the following:

1. **“Everybody is doing it!”** (peer pressure) No! (Rom. 1:16, 17, 32; 2 Pet. 2:14, 15; to the contrary - Psa. 1:1; Prov. 4:14, 15; 1 Cor. 15:33)
2. **“If it feels good, do it!”** (hedonism, being led by emotions) No! (2 Cor. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 3:3; James 4:1, 3; Heb. 11:25; to the contrary – Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:15)
3. **“It’s my life (body), I can do what I want with it; I’m not hurting anyone.”** No! (John 8:44a; 2 Pet. 2:19; Rom. 6:23a; to the contrary - Rom. 6:23b; 8:13b; 1 Cor. 6:19b, 20; 7:23)
4. **“We just want to have fun.”** No! (Psa. 32:11; Prov. 14:13; 15:21a; Rom. 8:13a; to the contrary - Prov. 15:21b; Gal. 5:22)
5. **“It works for me.”** (pragmatism - my truth works for me; your truth works for you.) No! (Prov. 14:8b, 9a, 12; to the contrary – (John 8:32; 14:6; Rom. 6:16; 1 Cor. 6:9-10)
6. **“Just be positive; everything will work out.”** (the philosophy of positivism) Not necessarily! (Prov. 16:25; to the contrary - Rom. 8:28)
7. **“Just believe in yourself.”** Not exclusively! (Prov. 14:15; Jer. 17:5; Rom. 12:3; to the contrary - Prov. 3:5-7; Isa. 64:6; Jer. 17:7, 9; Philippians. 4:13)
8. **“Man is the latest product of evolution from lower life forms.”** No! Man is the direct special creation of God as is the entire universe. (Gen. 1:1, 27; 5:1, 2; John 1:3; Col. 1:16, 17; Rev. 4:11)

B. Some arguments from the spiritual world include the following:

1. **“All roads lead to Rome.”** (all religions are leading to the same place) No!
(Gen. 3:4, 5; to the contrary - Prov. 14:12; Isa. 42:8; 46:9; Jer. 16:20; Acts 4:12; Col. 2:8, 9, 18, 23)
2. **“We believe in Jesus too!”** (many religions and cults believe in another Jesus) No! (2 Cor. 11:4); to the contrary - Only one Jesus Christ is the unique God-man savior. (Acts 4:10-12; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6)
3. **“Just believe in God.”** (Which god? There are many gods and goddesses.) No!
(Jer. 16:20; James 2:19); to the contrary - (Gal. 4:8b; Eph. 4:5, 6; Psa. 96:5a; Jer. 2:11; 5:7; John 14:1, 6)
4. **“Everyone interprets the Bible differently.”** No! (2 Peter 3:15, 16; Matt. 5:18; Lk. 16:17); to the contrary - (2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Rev. 22:18, 19)
5. **“Just keep the faith.”** No! (Matt. 17:20; Mark 9:23; Heb. 11:6) (What is the object of your faith or belief?); to the contrary - Our faith must be in God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:17-21; John 6:28, 29, 40, 47; 14:1; Eph. 2:8, 9; Acts 16:31)
6. **“Let your conscience be your guide.”** Not necessarily! (The conscience is the evaluating portion of the soul; it contains our values, norms, and standards.)
(1 Tim. 4:1, 2; Titus 1:15; Jer. 17:9); on the contrary - (Heb. 9:13, 14; 10:22; 13:18; 1 Pet. 3:13-16)
7. **“Man is basically good.”** (this is humanism – man is sufficient within himself) No! (Psa. 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:10, 23; 2 Tim. 3:13; James 1:13-17);
on the contrary – Jesus Christ is righteous as are those who are in Christ.
(1 John 2:1, 29; 3:7; 2 Cor. 5:21; Philippians 3:8, 9)
8. **“If my good deeds outweigh my bad deeds God will let me into Heaven.”**
No! (John 6:28-29; Rom. 7:18-19; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5-7; Rev. 20:11-15)