

**THE FIVE WAYS OF DECEPTION
PART THREE
THE DECEPTION OF OUR AFFECTIONS**

Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

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

- *“Do not be deceived” - The Bible contains many warnings for believers not to be deceived.*
- *The word ἐξαπατάω (exapataō) means “to deceive thoroughly or completely.”*
- *ἐξαπατάω (exapataō) is used only five times in the New Testament and each usage portrays a different type of deception.*
- *To study these five types of deception it is useful to study them in terms of our five senses and in terms of our triune created nature of spirit, soul, and body. (1 Thessalonians 5:23).*
- *Just as we have five physical senses to allow us to perceive the world around us and enable us to be “world conscious,” we have five soul senses to enable us to be “self-conscious” or conscious of the condition of own souls. We also have five spirit senses to enable us to be “God-conscious” or conscious of God and perceive what He is doing and saying to us.*
- *Previously we studied the triplet of our spirit, soul, and body senses of hearing, conscience, and faith, and we studied how sin deceives our conscience.*
- *Last time we studied the triplet of our spirit, soul, and body senses of sight, imagination, and hope, and we studied how we deceive our own imagination.*
- *Today we are going to study the triplet of our spirit, soul, and body senses of touch, affection, and love, and how our affections can be deceived.*
- *With our physical sense of touch we are able to literally feel the world around us. Through touch, we can experience both pain and pleasure and the “texture” of this world, whether things are hot or cold, soft or rough.*

- *Our soul sense of affection is that aspect of love that enables us to enjoy relationships and experiences.*
- *The Greek word that expresses this type of love is φιλέω (phileō) and from this Greek word, the Greek word “friendship” is derived.*
- *There are a number of Greek words for love or affection that are derived from the word phileō. They refer to the love and joy that relationships bring between friends, family, husbands and wives, parents and children, to name just a few.*
- *The concept of love as they relate to affection, phileō love, is not restricted to relationships with people, but can extend to inanimate objects such as “the love of money.” (1 Timothy 6:10).*
- *Many of our English words that refer to our affections or things that we love because we enjoy them are derived from the Greek word phileō, such as philanthropy—the love of charity, philosophy—the love of wisdom, and even the city of Philadelphia—the city of “brotherly love.”*
- *The idea of affections describes those things in which our souls find enjoyment, and enable us to enjoy relationships and activities.*
- *In Greek there is another word for love which is unrelated to φιλέω (phileō). It is ἀγάπη (agapē) and it refers to a higher and nobler form of love.*
- *The Bible uses the Greek word agapē to describe God’s unconditional love, which is unique to God, but a love He desires to impart and develop within our soul through our reborn spirit.*
- *Our spirit sense of agape love enables us to experience God’s unconditional love for us and it enables us to love others unconditionally with His love.*
- *One distinct difference between these two forms of love is that God’s unconditional love is not the result of our actions. God loves us as much on our worst days as on our best days.*
- *God’s unconditional love endures, while affections can wax and wane.*

- *While affections can be very good, a relationship founded solely on affection can ultimately fail if very difficult and painful circumstances are experienced in the relationship.*
- *A relationship founded on God's unconditional love will be able to endure, because His love never gives up as it is written in 1 Corinthians 13:8, "love never fails."*
- *Another distinction between phileō love and agapē love is the first is based on how the person makes us feel, while agape love is based solely on the person's value to other.*
- *When a relationship is based solely on phileō love, then once the relationship is no longer enjoyable, the person may say, "I don't love you anymore." In a relationship founded on agapē love, the person may say, "No matter how you treat me, I still value you and love you."*
- *Agapē love is be the foundation of every relationship, but God created phileō love so we can enjoy relationships as we interact and share our lives and hearts together.*
- *Once we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour and are born again, we are able to experience His unconditional agapē love for us.*

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- *Once we realize that the Greek word for love found in John 3:16 is agape love, this verse takes on a much deeper meaning.*
- *God's love for each of us is an unconditional love, not based on anything we have done, but solely because He created us, values us, and loves us.*
- *When John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world" it means that although we were in total rebellion, cursing His name, despising His commandments, and rebuffing His love, He continued to love us.*
- *Mankind in all it perversions and rebellion did not bring any joy to God. On the contrary, our rebellion filled His heart with grief. God's unconditional love for*

us compelled Him to send His own Son, Jesus Christ to die for us so we could be saved.

- *All the vileness of mankind’s rebellion toward God was experienced by Jesus Christ as He hung on the cross, whipped, stripped naked, and mocked. However, in response the words Jesus spoke reflected God’s unconditional love for mankind, “forgive them for they do not know what they do.” (Luke 23:43).*
- *When John 3:16 says, “God so loved the world” the “so” emphasizes the wonder of God’s love for mankind and for each one of us. The “so” stresses the degree of God’s unconditional love and explains why Jesus was willing to pay such an astonishing and extravagant price so we could be saved.*

John 16:27 (NKJV)

²⁷**for the Father Himself loves (*phileo*) you, because you have loved (*phileo*) Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.**

- *When we put our faith in Jesus and have our affections turned towards Jesus, the Father’s heart is filled with joy and *phileo* love for us – friendship love.*

Matthew 5:44–45 (NKJV)

⁴⁴**But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,**

- *Here, the Greek word for “love” is not *phileō* love or friendship love, but *agapē* love, God’s unconditional love. Because God created our enemies too, they are precious souls whom Christ died to save.*
- *We must love our enemies with God’s love, so that they will know there is a God who loves them and desires to save them.*
- *Notice it does not say to love them with *phileō*, friendship love, but God’s unconditional love.*
- *When people hurt us, persecute us, or even try to kill us, God does not say we have to enjoy fellowshiping with them, but we must love them, pray for them, and do good to them.*

- *If someone is especially vicious, destructive, or abusive, we may have to love and bless them from a distance. However, our heart must still be filled with God's love for them.*

⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- *The next verse tells us one of the reasons God wants us to learn to love everyone around us including those who try to harm us, "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."*

1 John 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- *Here is a profound truth revealing the very character and nature of God, "God is agapē" and He wants us, as His children, to become just like He is.*
- *God made his plan of salvation so wonderfully straightforward that if a person just receives His love by repenting of their sinfulness and putting their faith in Christ, they will be saved and become a child of God.*
- *However, a truth that some fail to grasp is that not only is God love but "the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does." (Daniel 9:14) He will ultimately judge all unrighteousness. In eternity there will be no evil or unrighteousness and those who reject His love and salvation will be eternally judged and condemned.*
- *A third aspect of love found in the Greek is eros love or sexual love. Unfortunately, this is the primary love that much of this world longs for, sings about, and pursues in order to find satisfaction. Instead of satisfaction, it leaves in its wake broken relationships and devastated lives.*
- *God created all three types of love, but if we fail to place them in the right priority and build on the foundation that is in Christ, we will find disappointment and pain.*
- *First, we need God's unconditional agape love, to be the foundation of every relationship we have.*

- *Second, we are to cultivate those relationships and develop friendships, phileō love, in which we can enjoy fellowship and share our lives together.*
- *Third, for those who enter into the covenant of marriage, we can share eros love as we seek to bless one another and add another dimension of sweetness and intimacy.*
- *The third time the Greek word ἐξαπατάω (exapataō), “to thoroughly deceive,” is found in the New Testament in relationship to our soul sense of affection, phileō.*

2 Corinthians 11:2–3 (NKJV)

²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- *“For I have betrothed you to one husband” - The language that Paul uses in 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 to describe the relationship between His Church and Christ, is that of a Bride and a Bridegroom.*
- *The very tone of this analogy of believers being Christ’s betrothed bride is one of love and intimate affection.*
- *“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy” – Paul took on the role of one who is helping to prepare a Bride for her Bridegroom. He does not want anything to defile the bride’s heart and turn her affections to someone or something else.*
- *“that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” - Paul’s great desire is to see each believer standing before the Lord on the day that He appears, pure and spotless, with hearts full of love and gratitude for the One who redeemed them by the sacrifice of His own life.*
- *“But I fear” –Paul employed the word “fear,” meaning he recognized there exists the possibility that if we are not careful, we can fall into deception. Paul spoke about this in 1 Corinthians 10:12 “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

- **“as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” – Paul turns our attention to how the serpent thoroughly deceived Eve, to teach us not to fall into the same type of deception.**
- ***We can see Eve’s devotion and affections were turned away from God as the serpent, Satan, deceived her.***
- ***While sin deceives our conscience, and we deceive our own imagination, it is Satan who deceives our affections and turns them away from God.***

Genesis 3:1–7 (NKJV)

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

- **“Has God indeed said?” – Satan began his crafty deception by laying the foundation of doubt by questioning if God had really spoken.**
- ***If Satan can cause us to question the authority of God’s Word, then everything becomes subjective. Truth is no longer absolute, but dependent upon whatever interpretation we choose to believe.***
- ***The lines between truth and lies, and right and wrong suddenly become blurred. One’s moral compass swings in every direction influenced by the latest fad or by an attempt to justify the wrong choices we have made.***
- ***Truth bows to compromise with the ultimate good being “what makes me happy.”***
- **‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” – The next aspect of the deception is to make God’s commandments appear unreasonable--that they actually hinder us from enjoying life.**
- ***God’s commandments are not restrictive, but protective.* (Ken Raymer)**
- ***When a child is told not to touch a hot stove, the purpose is not so that he can’t enjoy himself, but that he won’t experience needless pain and suffering. However, the reason the stove is hot is because his mother is preparing a delicious meal for him.***

- *God has created many things in this life for us to enjoy and be blessed, but if we use the things in this life in the wrong way or at the wrong time they result in much pain, suffering, and loss.*
- *Excesses are taking God's blessings and carrying them past the point for which they were created, resulting in destruction and suffering in our lives.*

²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

- *"You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die." – Eve's response already exhibited the effects of her affections being turned away from God as she began to believe God was unreasonable and she added to what God had spoken "nor shall you touch it."*
- *God never said, "If you touch the fruit of the tree you will die", the warning pertained only to eating of the fruit.*
- *Once we ask, "Who can live up to God's standards?" we are already sowing the seeds to justify ignoring or violating God's Word.*
- *If God asks us to do something beyond our capability, we must understand that He will give us the grace to do what we cannot do on our own. As a result, we will be delighted with the outcome.*
- *In 2 Corinthians 12:9 Paul expressed this delight as he faced his own weaknesses and heard God's response, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
- *Often Christians give up too soon instead of waiting on God for the breakthrough of His glory in our lives.*
- *God was waiting for Eve to trust in His faithfulness and bring forth a great victory for her life. Instead, she began to believe the lies she was hearing and allowed her love for God to wane.*

- *Eve forgot the delight of their times of fellowship with God in the Garden in the cool of the day.*

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- *The serpent first began to deceive Eve and turn her affections from God by planting the idea that God’s Word was too restrictive. Now he was actually deceiving her to believe that God was not to be trusted by directly contradicting what God had spoken, “You will surely die.”*
- *“and you will be like God” - This verse reveals the subtle but profound difference between man-made religion and true relationship and fellowship with God.*
- *“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Genesis 1:26) – Religion wants us to do something by our own power, works, or inner strength to become like God. Through relationship, God makes us into His image.*
- *Christ died and rose from the dead so we can have eternal life. By His grace we can receive the life of Christ in our reborn spirit and through His life our souls can be transformed into His image.*
- *The New Age philosophy teaches that we are all gods and we possess the power to become what we want.*
- *When we focus our attention on Jesus, then our affections are upon Him. When we focus our attention on ourselves, then our affections are turned to ourselves.*

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

- *Eve's affections were turned to the piece of fruit of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. She was unconcerned and unaware of the damage her disobedience would have on her relationship with God.*
- *Her affections had been deceived and she no longer delighted in God, but in something she thought would make her like God. Instead, their sin made them like the devil.*
- *Satan is always trying to sow seeds of discontentment in the hearts of believers so our affections will be turned away from God toward something else, and ultimately toward himself.*
- *Not only does Satan try to deceive our affections so that we are no longer seeking God fully, but he also tries to deceive our affections so we perceive that God is unreasonable, and we become resentful toward Him.*

Mark 12:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

³¹And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- *Satan tries to twist the commandments of God in our minds by trying to deceive our perception of God's character and His good intentions toward us.*
- *God's commandment that we are to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is the most delightful commandment, because as we pour out our love for Him, we are able to receive and experience His love for us.*
- *It is only when we open our heart with love for someone that we can experience their love for us. A closed heart neither gives nor receives love.*
- *When we misunderstand the character of God, we also misunderstand His Word.*
- *It is also true when we misunderstand God's Word, we also misunderstand God's character.*
- *If we read a portion of Scripture and we cannot hear Jesus speaking those words, then we still don't correctly understand that portion of Scripture.*

- *One time when Leonard Terry was contemplating about loving God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, he recognized he also love his wife so much and he was concerned that this might be a problem, but as he prayed about it the Lord said this to him, “You don’t love Me more by loving your wife less you love Me more by loving Me more.”*
- **“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”**” - *If we keep the first commandment of loving God with our entire being, the result will be that we will then be able to love others more fully.*
- *Loving God produces more love in our hearts for everyone else. One of the best remedies for a troubled marriage is to love God more and that love will spill over into your marriage and family.*
- *In an attempt to be religious, people have misrepresented God and His Word. In an attempt to be godly, they became religious and instead of deepening their relationship with God, they complicated their relationship with God.*

1 Timothy 4:3–5 (NKJV)

³forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- *God created everything so we can enjoy His blessings. As we partake of His many blessings with thanksgiving, our hearts are filled with more and more love for Him.*

⁴For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

⁵for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- *Thanksgiving makes everything clean and holy.*
- *The main difference between enjoying a good meal and gluttony is our attitude.*
- *If our hearts are filled with thanksgiving then we will find satisfaction in God’s blessings. If we seek satisfaction in food alone we will eat to excess seeking a false contentment from food that it cannot provide.*

- *Our affections have been deceived if we look to food instead of God as our source of joy.*

Colossians 2:20–23 (NKJV)

²⁰Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—

²¹“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,”

²²which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

- “These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion” - *Some people believe we need to live a life of self-denial in which we cannot enjoy the many blessings God has created, however, God created them to be enjoyed.*
- “but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh” – *Religion has no value and does not make us godly. As we learn to love God and enjoy His presence constantly, we can have a melody of thanksgiving in our hearts, as He transforms us into His image.*
- *God may call us to times of fasting and prayer, not because it is bad to enjoy eating, but because He is calling us to seek Him and learn to rule our passions and not allow our passions to rule us.*
- *How do we protect our affections from being deceived by Satan?*

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)

³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- *The Greek word for “simplicity” means, “sincerity as an expression of singleness of purpose or motivation.”*
- *Everything we do, say, and even think should have the purpose of glorifying God.*

- *Our lives should reflect the single purpose of loving Christ and keeping our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Only from that vantage point will we find fulfillment.*

John 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- *“we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” – The key to protecting our affections from being deceived and minimizing what Christ has done for us is to continually behold His glory.*
- *As we spend time daily worshipping God we are experiencing and beholding His glory and the grace He has poured out on us.*
- *Prayer, without worship and thanksgiving, will become as dry as crackers, but when worship fills our prayer time, our time with God becomes a delight.*
- *Our first love is that initial joy and love that filled us when we first encountered Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We are to constantly stir that love up through worship, praise, and telling others the great things God has done for us.*

John 4:24 (NKJV)

²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- *As you sing songs of worship and praise to Him, do it with all your being and you will find your affections and love for Christ will blossom.*