

(7 points on) How Not to be Deceived

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

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
3. Obscurity - eg Magicians tricks. Quoting from obscure texts. Quoting from friendly sources.
4. Misdirection - eg Getting people to look at back of room to conceal something
Blaming Satan for ones own shortcomings. Also using a Straw Man
5. Implication - eg Asking if something has changed ... and even if nothing changes people will think so
6. Misinformation - eg. Wartime planting of false info on corpse. Out of context quotes.
Creative Rumors
7. Innuendo - eg. Ask someone to Pray for someone because they having "problems"

Deceiver always has the advantage. They may be evil or sincere.

Don't be gullible ... healthy skepticism is good ... "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