

“DO NOT BE DECEIVED”

INTRODUCTION

- A. The statement, “*Do not be deceived,*” is of frequent occurrence in the New Testament.
- B. The words indicate that many are easily fooled into believing that which is untrue.
- C. Let us consider those things about which we must not allow ourselves to be deceived.

I. GOD TEMPTS NO ONE

- A. **James 1:12-16**
God does not tempt.
- B. **Genesis 3:12**
Some blame God for temptations (**James 1:13**). Adam blamed God for giving him the woman who tempted him.
- C. **Matthew 4:1; 1st Corinthians 7:5; 1st Thessalonians 3:5**
It is not God who tempts, but Satan. The business of tempting is one in which the Devil has a monopoly.
- D. **James 1:17-18**
In contrast, God is generous.
- E. **Job 2:1-6; Luke 22:31**
God does, however, permit temptation. Apparently, Satan cannot function without it.
- F. **James 1:2-4, 12**
There are benefits to be derived from temptation.
- G. **1st Corinthians 10:13; 2nd Peter 2:9; Matthew 6:13**
Nevertheless, it is through God that we may overcome temptation.

II. "WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT HE WILL ALSO REAP"

A. **Galatians 6:7-8**

Actions have consequences.

B. **Genesis 1:11-12; Matthew 7:15-18; James 3:11-12**

This truth is revealed in nature.

C. **Romans 2:5-10**

To sow one's wild oats is dangerous! To believe otherwise is an attempt to mock God.

III. "THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

A. **1st Corinthians 6:9-11**

Some are foolishly convinced that God will not exclude those who engage in various sins.

1. Adultery and fornication are deceptively called "having an affair".

a. **Hebrews 13:4**

God says that sex should be reserved for marriage, and that those who do otherwise invite God's judgment upon themselves.

b. **1st Corinthians 6:18**

God describes fornication as sin against one's own body.

2. Homosexuality is deceptively called an "alternative lifestyle" or "gay".

a. **Romans 1:26-27, 32**

God calls it a sin worthy of death.

b. **1st Timothy 1:10**

It is contrary to sound doctrine.

3. Theft is excused as "kleptomania."

a. **Romans 13:9**

God calls it a failure to love one's neighbor.

b. **Ephesians 4:28**

It demonstrates lack of a work ethic.

4. Drunkenness is called “alcoholism” and is considered a “disease”, as though one can simply “catch” it, and therefore cannot be held responsible for it.

- a. **Proverbs 23:29-35**

God says that we must not admire the drink in any way.

- b. **Ephesians 5:18**

Doing so is set in contrast to our spiritual duties.

- c. **1st Peter 4:1-4**

Such activity is sin, and must be ceased.

- B. **Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:1-6;**

Truly, such unrighteousness cannot inherit the kingdom!

IV. “EVIL COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD HABITS”

- A. **1st Corinthians 15:33**

Many are genuinely deceived in this matter, thinking they can influence others for the better, rather than being influenced by sin.

1. **Matthew 9:9-13**

While we must spend time with the ungodly in order to share the gospel with them, we ought to be sharing the gospel with them, not just having a good time, always reflecting on whether our influence is effective.

2. **Galatians 5:9**

It doesn't take much to be influenced.

- a. **Psalms 1:1**

Walking with the ungodly leads to standing in their sinful path, until finally we sit down with them!

- b. **Proverbs 13:20**

Influence, whether good or bad, is contagious.

B. 2nd Corinthians 6:14-18

We are to be a separate people!

C. Ephesians 5:7

May we never partake with the wicked!

1. 1st Timothy 5:22

Extending our approval is indicative of participation.

2. 2nd John 9-11

Greeting and sharing hospitality with the false teacher involves us in his sin.

CONCLUSION

A. Do Not Be Deceived:

1. God does not tempt anyone.
2. *“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”*
3. *“The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*
4. *“Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

B. Therefore:

1. Take responsibility for your own actions.
2. Consider consequences.
3. Avoid sinister influences.