

Cross Training Intro

1. "Apologetics" - Truth and Error.
2. Hands on approach to areas of error and deception.
 - a. Learn how, not just what, to think!
 - b. Each week we'll plug different issues and worldviews through a filter.
 - i. We will deal with Christian deceptions, secular deceptions and lifestyle deceptions.
 - ii. It will be very interactive.
 1. You will need to bring a computer if possible!
3. The Filter:
 - a. What does the Bible say about the issue?
 - b. What Biblical principles apply to the issue?
 - c. Does the issue meet any of the criteria for deception?
 - d. What's been the historical occurrence of the issue?
 - e. What is the fruit of the issue?
4. This could be one of the most important classes you ever go through!
5. We're going to start out today with the 3rd layer of the filter because it is fairly detailed.
 - a. What are the Biblical characteristics of deception?

Diagnosing Deception

***1 Cor.2:15** - *"The spiritual man makes judgments (gk: investigates, examines, looks into, sifts through and questions) about all things..."*

***1 Jn.4:1** - *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*

a. Test the spirits - Some great passages on differences between the fruit of Holy Spirit and that of the flesh: **Gal.5:19-23, Mt.7:21-22, Rom.13:13, 1 Cor.14:40, Acts 1:8, Titus 3:3, 1 Peter 4:3-5, etc.**

***21 Signs of Deception from 6 parts of scripture** (from Mt.24:24, Mk.13:22, 2 Cor. 11:3, 19-20, Rom.16:18, Eph.5:6, Col.2:4, 1 Tim.1:3-7, 2 Tim.3:13, 4:1-5, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22):

1. **Jesus' Warning: Mt.24:24** - For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect - if that were possible (**Mk.**

13:22 says the same). Remember, in **Mt.12:39, 16:4 and Lk.11:29** Jesus said "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!" And He warned, in **Mt. 7:22-23** - Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

a. **Deception Red Flag #1: Signs and wonders.** (*Mt.24:24, Mk.13:22, remember Jesus' warnings in Mt.7:22-23, 12:39, 16:4 and Lk.11:29*)

b. **Ex.**

2. **Paul's Warning to the Romans: Rom.16:17-18** - I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Remember **Eph.5:6**, "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient" and **Col.2:4** - Don't be deceived by fine sounding arguments.

a. **Deception Red Flag #2: Division among believers.**

b. **Deception Red Flag #3: Flattery and nice sounding arguments that are actually empty but deceive the naive.** (Rom.16:18, Eph.5:6, Col.2:4)

c. **Examples?**

3. **Paul's Warning to the Corinthians: 2 Cor.11:3 and 19-20** - "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ... You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face."

a. **Deception Red Flag #4: Distraction from simple and pure devotion to Christ.** (*2 Cor.11:3*)

b. **Deception Red Flag #5: Foolishness.** (*2 Cor.11:19*)

c. **Deception Red Flag #6: Physical roughness.** (*2 Cor.11:20*)

d. **Deception Red Flag #7: Legalism and manipulation.** (*2 Cor.11:20*)

e. **Examples?**

4. **Paul's Warning to the Galatians: Gal.1:6-10** - "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

a. **Deception Red Flag #8: "Special" revelation from God (uncommon form of Christianity).** (Gal.1:6-10)

b. **Examples?**

5. **Paul's Warning to Timothy: 1 Tim.1:3-7** - "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm." **2 Tim.3:13** - "Evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." Also remember **1 Cor.4:6** - "...Don't go beyond what is written..." **2 Tim.4:1-5** - In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

a. **Deception Red Flag #9:** Speculation and fruitless discussion. (*1 Tim.1:3-7*)

b. **Deception Red Flag #10:** Distraction from doing God's work by faith. (*1 Tim.1:4*)

c. **Deception Red Flag #11:** Confidence without understanding. Do they consider themselves teachers of God's Word yet have a poor understanding of it? (*1 Tim. 1:7*).

i. **Using God's Word out of context!**

1. **Ex.** Using a verse out of context and/or extra-Biblical sources. A recent example: Levitation, Stigmata, Talking with animals, Body elongation, Shape shifting, Invisibility, Long-life miracles, Interaction with the cloud of witnesses, Accessing the Divine books of destiny, Operating in trances and raptures, Spirit travel, smoking Holy Spirit Marijuana, sucking on the tit of heaven and more.
 - d. **Deception Red Flag #12:** Does it continue going further and further away from the truth, getting crazier and crazier; does it go from bad to worse - remember the law of diminishing returns? (*2 Tim.3:13*)
 - e. **Deception Red Flag #13:** Strange doctrines, myths and stories which differ from sound doctrine. (*1 Tim. 1:3-7, 2 Tim.4:1-5, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22*)
 - f. **Examples?**
6. **Peter's Warning: 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22** - "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. ... These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."
 - a. **Deception Red Flag #14:** Hidden agenda or secrecy about true beliefs and teachings. (*2 Peter 2:1*)
 - i. **Ex.** JWs and Jesus = Michael the Archangel.
 - b. **Deception Red Flag #15:** Sensuality and an appeal to peoples' fleshly desires. (*2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22*)
 - c. **Deception Red Flag #16:** Jesus / Christianity get's a bad rap. (*2 Peter 2:2*)

- d. **Deception Red Flag #17:** Greed and materialism. (*2 Peter 2:3*)
- e. **Deception Red Flag #18:** Taking advantage of people. (*2 Peter 2:3*)
- f. **Deception Red Flag #19:** Pride. (*2 Peter 2:18*)
- g. **Deception Red Flag #20:** The promise of freedom. (*2 Peter 2:19*)
- h. **Deception Red Flag #21:** Non-Christian actions. (*2 Peter 2:19-20*)
- i. **Examples?**

*** Those are the characteristics of deception. What to do about it (1 Cor.5:11, 2 Cor.11:19-20, 1 Tim.1:3-7, 2 Tim.2:13-17, 4:2-5, 1 Thes.5:14, Titus 1:11):** Keep your head (think straight and in line with God's Word). Continue in what you have learned from God's Word. Do not tolerate it; it must be silenced. Correct, rebuke and encourage from God's Word (Titus 1:13 and 2:15 tell us generally to rebuke sharply and with all authority). Command false teachers not to teach any longer. Warn them if they are idle (unruly, disorderly, irregular or deviating from prescribed order or rule - greek definition, *ataktos*). If they continue in it, have nothing to do with them.

g. That's it for this week. Remember the filter:

- a. What does the Bible say about the issue?
 - b. What Biblical principles apply to the issue?
 - c. Does the issue meet any of the criteria for deception?
 - d. What's been the historical occurrence of the issue?
 - e. What is the fruit of the issue?
- h. Be ready to start plugging issues through the filter next week.**
- a. Bring your computer.
- i. Pray!**