

**INTRODUCTION: DECEPTION & VALENTINE'S DAY?!**

**POINT: ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH WISELY** (Ex.20:16; Eph.4:24; Col.3:9; Mt.10:16;  
see *Conduct*, Murray, c.6; see *Divorce*, Murray; see 1Cor.6:1f; 1Tm.5:17)

**I. CLEAR**

**A. GOD IS TRUE** (Rom.3:4; see Jms.1:17)

1. *His word is truth* (Jn.17:17; see Jms.1:18)
2. *His image is truth* (Eph.4:24; 5:9; Col.3:9; Ex.20:16(Gen.2,3); see Eccl.7:29a)
3. *Conclusion: man was created to speak truth* (Eccl.7:29a; Eph.4:15,25)

**B. SATAN IS FALSE** (Jn.8:44; Gen.3:1f)

1. *His word is falsehood* (Jn.8:44; Gen.3:1f,13; Mt.4:1f)
2. *His image is falsehood* (Jn.8:44; 1Jn.3:8; Rev.22:15; see Gen.3:13f;)
3. *Conclusion: man has fallen into being deceived and deceiving* (Eccl.7:29; see 2Tm.3:13)

**II. CLOUDY**

**A. SIN RUINS ALL; GOOD ANSWERS GONE** (see Rom.6:23; Gen.2:17; 3:14f)

**B. APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS** (note: war vs. everyday life)

1. *Rahab: praised for ends, not means* (Josh.2:1f; Heb.11:31; Jms.2:25)
2. *Joshua: truth without explanation* (Josh.8:3-29; see Dan.2:4)
3. *Samuel: truth without context* (1Sam.16:1-5; see Dt.29:29)

**C. GOD IS ASTUTE** (Ps.18:26; Job 5:13(=1Cor.3:19); Acts 5:1f(Eph.5:11); see Eccl.3:1f)

**D. GOD IS JUST**

1. *equity* (Ps.18:26; Job 5:13; Rom.1:24,25,29; 2Th.2:10,11; 2Tm.3:13)
2. *judgment* (Ps.7:14-16; 9:15,16; 10:2; Prv.26:27)
3. *sovereignty* (1Kngs.22:1f,20f; 2Tm.4:3,4(3:13); see Jms.1:13-16; *deceived*)

**III. CLARIFIED**

**A. INOCULATE YOURSELF AGAINST DECEPTION!** (2Th.2:10-13; Eph.4:11-14; Heb.5:14; Jn.8:32; 17:17)

**B. DO NOT DECEIVE SO THAT YOU WILL NOT BE DECEIVED!** (Ps.18:26; Job 5:13; 2Tm.3:13;  
Ps.7:14-16; 9:15,16; 10:2; Prv.26:27)

**C. SPEAK TRUTH TRULY!** (Jer.9:5; Zech.8:16; Eph.4:25; see Jn.8:45f; 16:13)

1. *Speak the truth* in love (Eph.4:15,25,29; see 1Jn.2:4f; 4:20f /see LC,143-145)
2. *Love God* and your neighbor (Mt.22:37f)
3. *not false witness* against your neighbor (Ex.20:16; see Eph.4:25)
4. *Innocent as dove* wise as serpent (Mt.10:2)

**D. WHEN TEMPTED TO LIE, BE INNOCENT DOVE AND WISE SERPENT!** (Mt.10:16; note: persecution)

1. *dove: find something true to say* (1Sam.16:1-3; see Eph.4:25; Col.3:9)
2. *dove: submit to full disclosure under lawful oath* (Prv25:2; 1Kngs8:31; Ex22:7f; eg, Josh7:19; Jn9:24; Mt26:63 /see WCF 22,2)
3. *serpent: say as little as possible* (Prov.17:28; see Dt.29:29)
4. *serpent: do not elaborate or interpret where possible* (see Josh.8:3f,6)

**POINT: ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH WISELY** (Ex.20:16; Eph.4:24; Col.3:9; Mt.10:16;  
see *Conduct*, Murray, c.6; see *Divorce*, Murray; see 1Cor.6:1f; 1Tm.5:17)

Discussion question:

*Brethren, what shall WE do? (see Acts 2:37f)*