

“Letting Go of Delusions—All of Grace”

“The truth is the sanctifier, and if we do not hear or read the truth, we shall not grow in sanctification...Do not say of any error, ‘It is a mere matter of opinion.’ No man indulges an error of judgment, without sooner or later tolerating an error in practice.”
(Charles Spurgeon)

Introduction:

The Delusion of Hypocrisy:

Matthew 6:1-6, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

1. Hypocrisy is pretending or giving the impression that:
2. Grace delivers us from the need of the approval of others by giving us power:

The Delusion of Strength

Hosea 10:13, “But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength...”

1. Placing confidence in our own strength prevents others from seeing:
2. Grace delivers us from the need to be seen as strong by others by giving us power to:

The Delusion of Self-Sufficiency

Genesis 33:9 & 11, "But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself...(11) Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need." Esau was self-sufficient while Jacob was grace-sufficient.

1. Being self-sufficient is how we convince ourselves that:

2. Grace delivers us from the need to be self-sufficient by giving us power to:

The Delusion of Desire

James 1:14, "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."

1. Convincing ourselves that something we want is a need produces:

2. Grace delivers us by giving us the power to:

The Delusion of Self-Evaluation

Jeremiah 17:9, "'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?'"

1. We are prone to seeing ourselves as:

2. Grace delivers us by giving us the power:

The Delusion of Compromise (Pictures)

Psalms 119:1-3, "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey His laws and search for Him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in His paths.

1. We convince ourselves that a little compromise:

2. Grace delivers us by giving us the power to:

The Delusion of Praying Our Concept of God

Matthew 6:7, “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.’”

1. We decide what God is like:

2. Grace delivers us by giving us the power to:

Conclusion: