

Senior Challenge

James 3:5-6

5Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body

Deceitfulness is a trap that it is very easy for teens to fall into, and it is this very trap that I fell into in my teen years. As youth growing up in a well grounded local church the temptation to fall into deceit is even greater.

I vividly remember what I believe was my first major lie in 3rd grade over a trivial matter. I said to my mom, “Mom, would I lie?” as a cover up. To this day my parents and I still joke about this ridiculous question, but this question was the beginning of my plummet into consistently deceiving my parents.

James 3:5-6 held true in my life. My lies sparked more and more lies until lying engulfed my everyday life. It was a natural thing. I lied to my parents about my whereabouts, activities, friends, and my true character. My deceit had turned me into a hypocrite. There was a Timi for the home, one for school, and another for church. I even bragged to my unbelieving friends about how slick my deceitfulness was.

Why did I love deceiving my parents so much? I saw the world and the pleasures it offered and desired to indulge in them. However, my parent’s standards and beliefs were holding me back. Not wanting to cause turmoil in the family by rebelling outwardly I chose to rebel secretly. I thought I was living the way I wanted without disrupting my parents. In reality it was not doing any good for my family. Prov. 26:28 says “A lying tongue hates those it hurts” Through my lies I was actually hating my family.

Looking back I see the ugliness of the sin, specifically deceit. I was so ensnared that in my deceit I was able to even convince myself that my lies were real. This is INSANITY that I could stand by my lie and even begin to believe my lies as truth. Occasionally when I was found in my sin and realized I could not win, I would sometimes cry or deceive my parents further by pretending I was genuinely repenting when in my heart I knew I would not change. Even when I was somewhat convicted, I would attempt to change in my own strength then my efforts would break down in several weeks and I would revert back to old habits.

I thought that I was getting away with my sin. However, God promises that “your sin will find you out” (Num 32:23) whether it is in this life and eternity. I knew what I was doing was wrong, but my heart was hardened and I thought to myself “I’ll just stop lying and change later on in life.” I was disregarding the biblical principle of sowing and reaping found in Galatians 6:7-8 which says *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...”*

In God’s AMAZING grace to me, God revealed my sin. In the middle of my junior year I was caught in a major sin. Seeing the sorrow that my father and mother felt was what initially brought about change in my life, but as weeks passed I began to see just how ugly my deceit truly was and how offensive it was to God. I humbled myself before God and began to depend on him to change me. After genuine conviction had taken place, I confessed everything to my parents. This was the hardest part of the whole process. I told them things that previously I had planned to hide from them forever. But I truly did find mercy and I found Prov. 28:13 to be true...*13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

I experienced discipline for my sin and I am experiencing the consequences of my sin even today, but God has shown me mercy and grace in giving me power to change from my old lifestyle and live for him and true freedom to fight the desires of my flesh.

I urge all the youth not to live in deceit. The pleasure gained from it only feels good for the instant and then once it is over it will leave you wanting more. The world will never satisfy us. Only God can satisfy us.

You may think that your deceit brings you freedom to do as you wish, but you are truly enslaved to your sinful desires. You have no control over your sinful desires. Is this freedom? Instead confess your sin today and find true freedom in Christ!