

Perception

Perception is a fascinating thing. Some might contend that since we perceive things differently, we cannot know truth. Example: people who are colorblind perceive colors differently from others... so who's to say which person is seeing the *real blue*? In truth, there *are* color standards called PMS colors (I used them myself regularly in a previous job. Google "Standard PMS Colors".)

A confused world tries that deception in a number of ways, particularly moral and political. In fact the political world has a catch phrase, "In politics, perception IS reality." That's not true of course, but it is an accurate depiction of how politicians and advertisers consider the general public stupid and malleable. They know that their cleverly worded ads can, indeed, manipulate public opinion by creating perceptions (true or false) about their candidates and opponents.

God has given us a far better and more truthful approach. You CAN know truth (John 8:32). Until we *know* His truths, we cannot be free. Until we *know* God's truths, we will, indeed, be controlled by the manipulation of *perception* by any and all who have something to gain (power and money are the usual motivators). So long as a person desires to live in his or her own world of *fluid truth, changing values and manipulable mores*, that person will be under the control of others without ever knowing it... in fact, becoming a supporter of whatever their manipulators have programmed them to do (most often today by electronic media).

Never, ever allow some slick-talking snake oil salesman (e.g. politician, advertiser or even religious charlatan) be the source of your beliefs! Sadly, even in religion, falsehoods abound. *No... every one cannot be right! No... mutually exclusive concepts cannot both be true, not even in social constructs!* Paul warned the Christians at Colossae,

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." (Colossians 2:9)

Paul then hits the nail on the proverbial head by explaining why,

"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;" (vv. 9, 10).

The battle royal is for authority... authority over you, your thoughts and actions. *That is what gives people power over you!* Truthfully I *want* God to have power and authority over me... that is mankind's only route to heaven. Be malleable *to Him!* *Why? Because every spiritual blessing is in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).* God is NOT trying to manipulate you. He is trying to save you from sin and deliver you to heaven. He loves us so much He allowed His only begotten Son to die on a cross to get us to heaven with Him.

Beware of those who manipulate your perceptions. Believe the only One who can take you home for eternity!

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