1Thess #72

The art of deception is even practiced by Christians!

We will pick it back up in 1Thessalonians chapter four.

1Thes 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is,* that you abstain from sexual immorality;

This is the warning for the Bel who is dabbling in the cosmic system and using rebound as a license to sin.

Many Christians are the purest and sweetest Christians all day on Sunday. The rest of the week, you cannot tell them apart from the Unbels.

[1Th 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/4/s_1115004) that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

[1Th 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/5/s_1115005) not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

Each person is given a body and soul at birth. Then a divine Spirit is imputed at salvation, that is the whole of your vessel – you are responsible for what you do with that vessel.

/[1Th 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/6/s_1115006) *and* **that no one violate the rights and take advantage** of his brother *or sister* in the matter, because **the Lord is *the* avenger** in all these things, just as we also told you previously and solemnly warned *you.\*

[1Th 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/7/s_1115007) For God has not called us for impurity, but in sanctification.

The life of Christianity is not the life of what the cosmic system promotes – we are called to a higher calling.

[1Th 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/8/s_1115008) Therefore, the one who rejects *this* is not rejecting man, but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Every time you disagree with accurate Bible teaching – you are not kicking against your pastor; you are kicking against GOD!

The original Greek context uses the terms TRANSGRESS and DEFRAUD;

/1Thes 4:6 — *“That no one transgress and defraud”*  is a present active infinitive, meaning habitual, and it means to overstep, to wrong someone, to give someone pain or sorrow.

Transgress – *hyperbainō,* stepping beyond a legal, moral or personal boundary.

Defraud – *pleonekteō,* to gain unjust advantage over another.\

HOOP-AIR-BANO, is very specific about a line in the sand – a boundary where we go to far.

PLAN-ECK-TAHO, speaks to purposeful deceit. It comes from a Greek root word for covetousness – you needed or wanted something so you took advantage to get what you coveted.

The ends justify the means – which we see is very prevalent in our society today.

One of the great dangers in the Christian life is to bring pain and sorrow to other people by your decisions and actions.

There is an emphasis on the brethren here!

 Because it is even worse when we step on a Bels’ personal rights or destroy the doctrine of privacy for them.

There is a Royal Family honor code – yet, it is not that Paul is stating it is okay to do this to Unbels. He is warning about destroying the unity in the body of Christ.

In the next lesson we will touch on the RF honor code.

To “*defraud*” means to take advantage of a Believer because he is a Bel - or to cheat another Christian, because it’s no big deal we all forgive and move on.

 REPEAT

 /1Thes 4:6 - *“because the Lord is the avenger of all”* — just leave it in the Lord’s hands and HE will do the job of discipline, in HIS way and HIS timing; *“as we also have forewarned you and testified”* — apparently there had been a problem in Thessalonica related to deception and over stepping boundaries.\

It doesn’t matter if it is a business, a church, a marriage or a friendship - deception is the great weapon of division. Trespassing on other people’s personal boundaries and deception account for a large portion of division and relationship problems.

/Unity of friendship, marriage or business is dependent upon respect and integrity. Once deception creeps in, or one party, trespasses upon another’s personal boundaries, division follows. Relationship integrity is developed and built strong by allowing honesty and boundaries to form in natural and spiritual fashion.\

Go into the OT – Genesis chapter twelve RF.

It doesn’t matter whether we are dealing with Unbels or Bels, when our honesty and integrity is compromised we are operating from the OSN. In doing so we cross over into deception and stepping over other people’s personal boundaries.

It is then we make decisions from a position of weakness not strength.

/Marriages and friendships, as well as businesses or a congregation are destroyed by Bels who practice deceit or have no respect for other people’s personal boundaries or struggles. When a person is defrauded even on a small scale or they have been morally or financially trespassed upon they have every right to withdraw and separate.\

This does not mean they should never forgive that person. But when the initial deception or privacy is breached, any sane person Bel or Unbel, will withdraw their trust and need time to regroup and make new decisions for that relationship.

/Whether we are the victim or villain in the arena of deception or personally trespassing upon another it is only through GOD’s viewpoint that we can move forward. Every person plays the role of victim and villain at certain points in life – no one is above reproach. To take responsibility for your role and adjust to God’s justice system and HIS plan, that is the call for either victim or villain.\

Now in Genesis chapter 12, Abram is called to move away from his family. Specifically, his father Terah, who was a follower of false gods such as the moon and sun gods, who were believed to be under the authority of Nimrod.

Abram is travelling with his family and servants through territory that is hostile toward GOD. Because at this historic point there was very few true believers and Abram by all accounts is the only leader for God.

It's amazing, but in the OT there were a few historic points, where on all the earth, there were only a handful of Bels.

Truthfully at the beginning of the CA, there appeared to be only 120 Bels at the day of Pentecost.

That is why TLJC used seeds and sowing in many analogies. A tiny seed can bring forth an amazing tree with bountiful fruit. That fruit gives more seeds and the multiplication begins.

Gen 12:6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites *were* in the land at that time.

/[Gen 12:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/7/s_12007) And **the LORD appeared** to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

This is believed to be Abram’s first visual encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ (incarnate). \

Abram is now having a second form of contact with GOD – the calling to leave his family came from GOD earlier. Now once again, GOD is speaking to him very clearly and in person.

[Gen 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/8/s_12008) Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.

BETHEL means house of God – place of God or a dwelling from God.

God was protecting Abram.

[Gen 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/9/s_12009) Then Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

[Gen 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/10/s_12010) Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a time, because the famine was severe in the land.

/[Gen 12:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/11/s_12011) It came about, when he was approaching Egypt, that he said to his wife Sarai, “See now, I know that you are **a beautiful** (*yāp̄ê*)**woman**;

Sarai was sixty-five years old and she had great beauty and grace.\

YAH-FAIR, is a Hebrew adjective, used for both men and women when they are extremely attractive, meaning physically fit and beautiful or handsome.

The trip into Egypt was not necessary for survival. God was placing him in a place of security and Abram made a choice to step away from the blessing of security and having a gracious and lovely wife is a blessing from God, that he was about to toss away as well.

Abram had everything working in his favor except his own faith and integrity.

/[Gen 12:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/12/s_12012) and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and **they will kill me, but they will let you live.**

Abraham is stepping over her personal boundaries of safety and her marriage commitment in order to save himself. This is after God appeared to him twice.\

Abram has not only his wife, but his nephew Lot and his family along with many servants that are looking to him as a leader. They are also watching his application of faith as the one man, GOD called to leadership.

/[Gen 12:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/13/s_12013) “**Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well for me** because of you, and that I may live on account of you.”

This would not be the last time Abraham used this deception (Gen 20). Saria was one of the daughters of Terah but not of the same mother.\

Abraham took that which had some truth in it, then manipulated and deceived the men of Egypt.

Years later he did the same to the men of Gerar in Genesis chapter 20.

/Before the problem even arose Abram was already using the schemes of the world to trespass upon his wife’s volition and to deceive the men whom he was counting on to assist him. Saria being a gracious woman of God, followed her husband’s plan out of respect. Abram is completely to blame and operating in both trespassing and the defrauding of others.\

Gen 12:15 Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house.

/[Gen 12:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/16/s_12016) **Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake**; and he gave him sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

God is turning a curse into a blessing for the sake of Saria. Because she was applying the doctrine of authority.\

[Gen 12:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/17/s_12017) But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.

This is called blessing by association.

Teaching the Christian husband that even when we are a knucklehead, having a good Christian wife with character and integrity can save our butts!

[Gen 12:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/12/18/s_12018) Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this *that* you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?

Pharaoh had more character and integrity then Abram at this point.

The Pharaoh allowed all the gifts and supplies to remain and simply sent the deceiver - Abram on his way!

So, just as the Apostle Paul was teaching and dealing with a handful of Bels who were walking in the flesh, we see a great example of this exact issue with Abram, Saria and the Pharaoh.

/1Thes 4:7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in sanctification.

The Bel is called to walk in the New Nature (Experiential Sanctification), which removes trespassing and defrauding others as well as acting out in lust patterns.\

God has called us to stay in fellowship.

When the Believer is in fellowship it is called holiness and practical or experiential sanctification. If the Bel is out of fellowship it is called unclean, impure.

We haven’t been called to live out of fellowship, we have been called to live **in fellowship.** When the Holy Spirit is allowed to control or dominate the life of the Bel - they will walk in holiness.

             REPEAT

/When we interfere without just cause, in the life of others or we influence and manipulate others for our own benefit we trespass upon their freedom and privacy. Anytime we engage in deceptive words and actions that are designed to benefit us, at the confusion or detriment of others, it is defrauding someone of either truth or what they rightful have. Sometimes it is both! \

It is a very dark, yet a subtle practice that some Christians embark on without realizing the depth of problems and evil that is encompasses.

/Trespassing upon others usually begins when we allow curiosity and domineering attitudes to push us into the privacy of others and bend personal boundaries in our favor. A spouse, friend, family member, even a boss or pastor can trespass upon others. We cross over limits and manipulate others when we should respect privacy and free will. There is a difference between giving advice or warnings when concerns arise, and crossing into manipulation or trickery. \

/Defrauding someone speaks to either cleverly or blatantly stripping away that which belongs to another. It usually comes from a spirit of covetousness or pettiness. People that are petty or jealous often want what others have and even believe they deserve what someone else has. It can be done through a clever swindle or a powerfully, deliberate grab! \

Fraud speaks to a fake – a counterfeit and replacing truth with a lie - it is a weapon of Satan!

Some of the key components of both the defrauding person or the one who trespasses upon others is usually a lying tongue.

A lying tongue and a strong sense of self-justification are two key components.

/Prov 12:22 **Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD**, But those
who deal faithfully are His delight. 23 **A prudent person conceals knowledge**,
But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

The mature Bel has no need to justify what they know and how they live. The fool is the one who makes loud proclamation and claims to be the arbiter of the only truth. \

The mature Bel knows the truth of BD and they have no need to go to the mats every time someone else brings forth a different opinion.

Fighting over every opinion and lie that pops up around you will lead you to becoming a combative Christian.

That drives people away from God - not drawing them close to God.

Standing strong in your faith is the confidence to know when and how to speak BD.

 REPEAT

/Psa 5:6 **You destroy those who speak lies**; The LORD loathes the person of bloodshed and deceit.

God is an enemy of deception and unjust violence. \

Military violence and law enforcement action as well as protecting your family and friends are the only JUST reason for bloodshed.

/Ezk 13:22 “**Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood** when I did not cause him pain, but ***you* have encouraged the wicked**not to turn from his wicked way to keep him alive,

The Bel who is able to defraud others and trespass upon a person’s privacy and freedom is one who encourages evil. Many in leadership engage in this and GOD will account for that evil.\

By that I mean Bels and Unbels in political, educational and media leadership around the world and most certainly here in America.

Next lesson we will take an overview look into the Royal Family Honor Code.