

**Next Level**  
**Ready or Not? Pt. 3**

*1 Peter 2; Hebrews 6; 1 Corinthians 3*

**“The Or Nots”**

1. A faulty foundation
2. A “human centered” focus.
3. A state of unresolved dialectical tension.

**The Deception Problem**

- *Deception has been with the human race almost as long as there has been a human race.*
- *The problem has never gone away. Rather, it has increased with time.*
- *The Bible has much to say about deception and deceivers.*

**4. A tendency toward self-deception.**

Paul says, <sup>“18</sup> ***Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.***” The immediate context of this statement concerns the self-deception among the Corinthians regarding the elevation of human wisdom. In their quest for spiritual depth – a pursuit taking them toward human centered solutions and personality driven alliances – Paul says they have in fact become foolish.

**A Very Human Problem**

- *Self-deception is a very human problem. All of us have and likely will practice some form of self-deception.*
- *At its base, self-deception is telling ourselves lies that we come to believe both by choice or default.*
- *The more lies we tell ourselves the more lies we tend to tell ourselves. Worse, we will come to accept those lies at a deeper and deeper level in our thinking.*

**The Cost of Self-deception**

- *Our reality becomes skewed.*
- *Our identity becomes confused.*
- *Our path to development becomes obfuscated (clouded or obscured).*
- *Our relational ability becomes diminished.*

**The Path to Self-deception**

- *When we entertain truth without context.*
- *When we entertain context without truth.*
- *When we have an unhealthy understanding of ourselves.*
- *When we cognitively take hold of a spiritual truth but fail to act on it.*
- *When we engage in hidden actions or hide ourselves from the truth.*