

**Breaking through the Deception Agenda
Liberation from a Faulty Self-Reliance
Romans 7:15 – 8:8**

We DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE ANYMORE...

We DON'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST...

I am continuing our series...

I've titled it, "Breaking through the Deception Agenda"

NOTICE – It's NOT "Breaking through a DECEPTIVE Agenda..."

The agenda I'll be referring to is not anything new...

It's not based upon our current crisis of deceptive agendas...

Rather, it has been around since the dawn of time...

Deception has existed almost as long as man has been on earth...

What is deception?

Deception: "The act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid."

→ Pic of Faulty Self-Reliance

BREAKING THROUGH THE DECEPTION AGENDA	
THE DECEPTION	THE REALITY
FOOLISH WISDOM	WISDOM OF GOD
FAULTY SELF-RELIANCE	DEPENDANCE UPON GOD

We want to begin this morning by gaining a Biblical understanding of the term "SELF-RELIANCE"...

ONE THING

Self-reliance is the human DISEASE that believes, "I CAN MAKE MY LIFE WORK APART FROM GOD."

Ever since the Garden of Eden and the Fall, mankind has been cursed with this deadly disease...

→ We are NOT good people trying to do the right thing!

→ We are self-centered people trying to do OUR thing!

In Isaiah, the Lord is pronouncing judgment on Babylon and says the following about their mindset.

Isaiah 47:10 (ESV)

You felt secure in your wickedness, you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."

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Self-reliance is a universal condition!

Even after our salvation we continue to experience this deadly condition!

At conversion, Jesus saved you from your sins.

In sanctification, Jesus is saving you from yourself!

Because of UNIVERSAL self-reliance, every BELIEVER battles DAILY between SPIRIT-ALLIANCE and SELF-DEFIANCE

Matthew 12:30 (ESV) — Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Romans 6-8 is clear teaching on HOW to live the Christian life...

Romans 6...

→ We died to sin so how can we live in it any longer

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:23)

Romans 7...

When we give our life to Jesus we DIE to the Law of God and become “married” to Jesus...

→ The PURPOSE of the Law of God was not to be an attainable standard we were to live by...

→ Rather, the Law of God was to point out our sinfulness...

This raises an important question...

Was the Law of God producing the sin in me?

Of course not!!!

The Law of God is NOT the problem...

There is another “law” dwelling inside every human that the Lord wants to deliver us from!

Why is it that I want to live for God’s glory and yet I seem to continually mess up?

1. The DECEIT of RELYING on SELF

Romans 7:15–18 (ESV) — For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Did you get the last part of verse 18?

Romans 7:18b (ESV) — ... For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Right here we come face to face with our battle against self-reliance...

Although I have been freed from the Law and have been born again in Jesus, I find the old habits, old desires, old ways still alive and well...

**I don't want to THINK those things!
I don't want to SAY those things!
I don't want to DO those things!**

... And yet I find myself THINKING, SAYING, and DOING them anyway...

... So I respond in one of two ways...

... I either try harder...

... Or I lower the standards to something more attainable...

I make these choices because I believe "I CAN MAKE MY LIFE WORK APART FROM GOD."

Jesus say clearly that we can't, but we still assume we can!

John 15:5 (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

1. The DECEIT of RELYING on SELF

2. The DECENT of DENYING our SIN

Romans 7:19–20 (ESV) — For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

1 John 1:8 (ESV) — If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

"Come on, Bro. David... I mean, everyone sins... I'm just trying to do the best I can..."

→ And this is the LIE of SELF-RELIANCE!!!

Galatians 6:7–8 (ESV) — 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, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

1. The DECEIT of RELYING on SELF

2. The DECENT of DENYING our SIN

3. The DEFEAT of TRYING against SIN

Romans 7:21–25 (ESV) — 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Listen to Galatians 3...

Galatians 3:2 (ESV) — Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

Galatians 3:3 (ESV) — Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

The lie of self-reliance believes we can still make our life work apart from God!!!

1. The DECEIT of RELYING on SELF

2. The DECENT of DENYING our SIN

3. The DEFEAT of TRYING against SIN

4. The DELIGHT of COMPYING with the SPIRIT

Romans 8:1–4 (ESV) — 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:5 (ESV) — For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

I want to restate this verse replacing a few words for our clarity...

Romans 8:5 (red letters are mine) — “For those who live according to the flesh [themselves] set their minds on the things of the flesh [self-reliance], but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Sprit [Spirit-Alliance].”

- **Self-Reliance always leads to Self-Defiance and Cultural-Compliance**
- **Spirit-Alliance always leads to Kingdom-Allegiance and Spirit-Compliance**

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Liberation from a Faulty Self-Reliance
Romans 7:15 – 8:8**

Self-reliance is the human _____ that believes,

“_____.”

Because of _____ self-reliance, every _____ battles
_____ between _____ and _____.

1. The _____ of _____ on _____

2. The _____ of _____ our _____

3. The _____ of _____ against _____

4. The _____ of _____ with the _____