

Deception Studies

Deception is the intentional misleading of subjects or the withholding of full information about the nature of the experiment.

Investigators may mislead or omit information about the purpose of the research, the role of the researcher, or what procedures in the study are actually experimental. Deception increases ethical concerns because it interferes with the ability of the subject to give informed consent. Deception may be necessary in certain types of research so that results are not biased.

Spiritual Deception

Jesus warns against three forms of spiritual deception:

1. Trusting the majority when it comes to spiritual matters. (Sheepism) The tendency to uncritically follow the herd we're a part of. People tend to arrive at their spiritual beliefs

not so much by careful examination and deliberate choice as by osmosis from those around them. There is a subtle, but very strong pressure to conform to the majority ethos. While this is no big deal in some area, Jesus says there is great danger in doing this with spiritual beliefs because at any given time in any given society, the majority is usually wrong about the nature of spiritual truth. Therefore, those who are truly on the right path are usually in the minority and moving against the herd. The "narrow way" refers to the message of biblical revelation, fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Jesus' and John's warning against trusting the Jewish exemption clause) (Matt. 3: 9; Luke 13:28-30)

Jesus' critique of works-righteousness (Matt. 5:20-48) Pharisee and tax-gatherer (Lk. 18:14)

2. Listening to anyone who claims to be Jesus' spokesperson is probably trustworthy. Matt.

7:15 "False prophets" refer to counterfeit Christian leaders. These are people who, like wolves disguised as sheep, pose as followers of/ spokesperson for Jesus—but are actually deceivers who lead people astray. Self-deceived (&:21-23). They call Jesus "Lord," they preach in his name and from his Word, some of them even perform miraculous deeds by what they claim is his power. Yet they do not belong to Jesus, and destroy his work. Jesus predicted that the entire time between his two comings would be characterized by a steady stream of false prophets (Matt. 24:11)—and this prediction has been fulfilled in spades!

3. Understanding and agreeing with Jesus' teaching is sufficient. (Matt. 7:24-27). This warning is for people who have avoided the first two deceptions. He says you can choose the narrow way of the Bible and Jesus, you can discern and reject the false prophets—

and still wind up in complete spiritual ruin.
How? By thinking that understanding and
agreeing with his words is sufficient.