

DANGER ZONE

SELF-DECEPTION

2-22-15

1. Often we enter into a dangerous place and we _____ by cones, fences and signs.

2. Things are really dangerous when we _____ or acknowledge we're in a danger zone.

Self-deception is a process of denying or rationalizing away the relevance, significance, or importance of opposing evidence and logical argument. **Self-deception** involves convincing oneself of a truth (or lack of truth) so that one does not reveal any **self-knowledge** of the **deception**.

THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW THEY DON'T KNOW.

THREE TRUTHS OF THE SELF-DECEIVED

1) The longer we live in the danger zone of self-deception, the more difficult it becomes to _____ the danger.

Psalm 36:1-3 An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. ² For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. ³ The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and to do good.

2) The longer we live in the danger zone of self-deception, the more we will believe that it will not _____ us.

Psalm 36:1-3 An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. ² For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. ³ The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and to do good.

Deuteronomy 29:18-19 Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose **heart turns away from the Lord our God** to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.¹⁹ When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, "**I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way.**" This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.

3) The longer we live in the danger zone of self-deception, the more convinced we are that we are _____.

Matthew 26:33-35 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."³⁴ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."³⁵ But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

Psalm 36:2 In his eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his own sin.

- **So why do we live in this danger zone?**

Psalm 36:1 An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is **no fear** of God before his eyes.

“NO” means: To be nothing or not exist:

“FEAR” means: A (sudden) alarm (properly, the object feared, by implication, the feeling):

THREE STEPS TO LIVING A DANGER FREE LIFE:

1) BE WILLING TO _____ GOD IN PRAYER.

Psalm 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

2) BE WILLING TO _____ TO OTHERS.

Proverbs 15:31-32 *He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. ³² He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.*

3) BE WILLING TO _____ WHAT AND WHEN GOD SHOWS YOU.

James 1:22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

John 8:3 *“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*