

Spiritual Deceptions in Communities of Generational Poverty

Responses to oppression and difficult circumstances with and without knowledge of God

A resource provided by Clubs In The City Youth Development / clubsinthecity.org

Preface: Provision, Protection, Love and Comfort are essential needs of all human beings that must be met. According to scripture, our perspective (the attitudinal lens through which we view life), and what we place our trust in and worship as King and Ruler, determine how we seek to meet those needs which radically affects the outcomes in our lives as we become victims or victors through Christ in this very broken world. Carnal thinking/living and Kingdom of God thinking/living are radically opposed and deliver radically different outcomes. For cultures of generational poverty to be set free, the following deceptions must be broken. For those in the Kingdom to help those in poverty be set free, we must understand the importance for every human soul, of looking to the one true God to meet basic human needs, even as we seek to be agents of Christ's justice, love and mercy to help meet these needs. We must both understand and communicate that the one true God cares deeply about meeting basic human needs and that who and what we worship and trust in, submit to and give our allegiance to--in how we seek to meet our needs--makes all the difference in this world and ultimately our eternal destiny.

PROVISION Everyone needs provision

<p>G (without God) “No job, no money” “Do what you gotta do”</p>	<p>—————→</p>	<p>Crime, gangs, incarceration, prostitution, broken families</p>
<p>G (with God) Trust God’s promises to provide</p>	<p>—————→</p>	<p>God works on our behalf; spiritual laws of God’s kingdom at work; participate in agency helps with hope & strength; we belong to the body of believers to help in times of need; miracles; obedience reaps prosperity</p>

PROTECTION Everyone needs protection

<p>G “Law of the Streets” “Nobody’s lookout out for me, I gotta look out for myself”</p>	<p>—————→</p>	<p>Fight to survive; prove who you are; show your strength; street violence; domestic abuse; incarceration; only have yourself (& others criminally minded) to protect yourself</p>
<p>G Take refuge in God Know who you are in Christ Follow Christ’s example Follow David’s example</p>	<p>—————→</p>	<p>Completeness in God without proving self; God promises justice & vindication; Forgiveness, turn the other cheek; love your enemies; no need to retaliate or prove; find refuge, comfort, healing, help & hope & receive justice from the living God</p>

LOVE Everybody needs to be loved

<p>G “Love the one you’re with” Get it however you can Whenever you can With whomever you can</p>	<p>—————→</p>	<p>Fatherless homes; broken families; Teen pregnancies; STD’s; wounded hearts; hardened hearts; continual lust for more; love tank empty; angry & violent relationships</p>
<p>G Secure in God’s love</p>	<p>—————→</p>	<p>Understand God’s design for relationships & families; Able to wait & choose healthy partners; Faithful fathers & husbands; abstinence until marriage; peaceful families (Cont’d on back)</p>

COMFORT Comfort is an essential need of the human soul amidst life's continual ups & downs, bumps & bruises, trials & tribulations

G "Life takes from me constantly —→ Drugs, alcohol, pornography, clubs;
Gotta get comfort somehow." Ltd. discretion in TV, music, movies;
immorality

G Holy Spirit sent for our comfort —→ Healing & wholeness; Able to use
God's word, prayer & worship discretion in media, relationships, recreation;
Fellowship of believers contentment & inner strength
Love of healthy families & friends

FULFILLMENT Value, purpose and meaning are essential needs of the human soul

G "I'll try everything" Believe Satan's —→ Endless worldly pursuits never satisfy
lie that God is keeping something from us

G This is life: that they might know Me —→ Fullness of life realized in relationship
John 17:3, Psalm 8 with the Lord and our created purposes

OUR PERSPECTIVE GOVERNS US:

G Despair —→ Destructive choices

G Hope, Trust, Obedience —→ Healthy choices

G Join the problem —→ Anger; hatred; destructive choices
"Whatever"

G Part of the solution —→ "Here I am, send me"

The Core Issue: Who or What is my God?

G Self, media, celebrities, sports, —→ Idolatry; separation from God; victim
gangs, lovers; relatives, stuff, money, of this world & without hope.
clothes, pleasure, lifestyle, racial identity, Life filled with brokenness & destruction.
wealth, politics, government, etc. Momentary pleasures never satisfy. Harm to
self & others. Continual destructive consequences,
no remedy. Utterly fail to glorify the nature of our
completely loving, faithful, powerful, merciful God.

G The one true God —→ Eternal life; abundant life; inheritance;
Father/Son/Holy Spirit intimate relationship with God; a member of
God's eternal family forever; recipients of
God's blessings, promises, healing, hope, grace,
care, comfort, help, deliverance, provision, justice
protection; victors over all enemies & suffering;
true self-esteem; fruits of the Spirit ...