

## Not Immature or Unstable

### Ephesians 4:14a (ESV)

so that we may **no longer** be children, tossed to and fro by the waves

- This refers to what vss 11-13 taught, showing what mature stability looks like
- “Children” here speaks of those easily misled and lacking understanding
- The term for “tossed to and fro” is used in Isaiah 57:20 in a moral context

## False Doctrine and Instability

### Ephesians 4:14b (ESV)

and **carried about** by every wind of doctrine

- False doctrine is identified as a key cause of instability for Christians
- False doctrine is very diversified while the truth given “once for all”
- Ministry gifts to the church protect believers from being out of control

## Plotted Strategies of Deception

### Ephesians 4:14c (ESV)

by human **cunning**, by **craftiness** in deceitful **schemes**.

- “Cunning” is from *kubeia* which is from a dice game (here a rigged one)
- These are not innocent errors but a planned deception (schemes)
- Satan’s scheme (2 Cor. 11:3) is carried out by men who plot to promote error

## Implications and Applications

- Know both the dangers and God’s means to change us and keep us safe
- Instability must be attacked with solid teaching of and belief in the truth
- Deceivers target Christians and must be actively opposed
- Beware the judgment of hardening

## No Longer Slaves to Self and Sin

### Romans 6:6 (NASB)

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would **no longer be slaves to sin**;

### 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NASB)

and He died for all, so that they who live might **no longer live for themselves**, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

5

## The True Source of Stability

### Matthew 7:24, 25 (NASB)

“Therefore everyone who **hears these words of Mine and acts on them**, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.”

- **Disciples live by faith and obedience to Jesus’ teachings**

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

6

## Avoid and Oppose Deception

### 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4 (NASB)

But I am afraid that, as **the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

7

## The Truth or Hardening?

### 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11 (LEB)

And with every unrighteous deception against those who are perishing, in place of which **they did not accept the love of the truth**, so that they would be saved. And **because of this, God sends them a powerful delusion** so that they will believe the lie,

- **“Accept” means “welcome” the gospel**
- **“The lie” is Satan’s great falsehood!**

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

8