

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1316: Is My Christian Judgment Tainted by Bias? (Part II)

<https://christianquestions.com/society/1316-biases-part-ii/>



See:

1. What is our working definition of “bias”? Rephrase this in your own words.
2. Recap the following biases:
 - a. Self-Protecting Bias
 - b. Blocked Listening Bias
 - c. Building Walls Bias
3. Bias Breaks Trust: (Matthew 5:21-24, James 1:19-20, Ephesians 4:25-32, Psalms 4:4-5, Galatians 5:13-15)
 - a. Words—how did Jesus show the “spirit” of the Law was at a higher level than the “letter” of the Law?
 - b. Anger—why is even legitimate anger a danger?
 - c. How can we be angry and yet not sin? How does Psalm 4 help counteract the emotion behind anger?
 - d. Irrelevant—what is “irrelevant” Christian liberty and emotional energy?
4. Belittling of Others Bias: (James 2:1-19, Proverbs 16:19-23, Galatians 2:11-13, Philippians 2:1-4)
 - a. Belittling—what does this mean? Do you see belittling in your own life?
 - b. What can be the result of not challenging our own conditioned prejudicial thinking?
 - c. Explain the four steps James gives us to correct our tendency to belittle.
 - d. How does the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:10 give us help in conquering this bias?
5. Bridge-Burning Bias: (Galatians 5:15-17)
 - a. What does “Don’t burn your bridges behind you” mean? Have you done this in your life?
 - b. Why is this a step beyond belittling?
 - c. In Julie’s example, what was the first step in defusing a tough issue? The second?
 - d. By removing emotion from our communication with the other party, what happens?
6. Calming and correcting our Bridge-Burning Bias: (Acts 15:36-40)
 - a. What was the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over John Mark?
 - b. This was a “sharp disagreement”—what is the danger here?
 - c. How had Paul and Barnabas worked together to influence the Jerusalem Council?
 - d. What happened as they left Jerusalem to continue their missionary journey?
 - e. Discuss the hints we get much later in the relationship between Paul, Barnabas and John Mark as they all matured in their Christian walks. (Colossians 4:10-11, 2 Timothy 4:11)
7. Expand on the thought of putting space between the stimulus and our response:
 - a. How should our conscience be tuned? (1 Timothy 4:1-3, Romans 9:1-3)
 - b. What are our weapons to avoid the burning of bridges? (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
 - c. Building bridges requires us to do what? (Matthew 12:34-35, James 3:2-10)
8. Look carefully at your behavior and your thoughts; examine your heart and mind—what hidden biases do you have? What *are* your personal biases? What suggestions in Episodes #1315 and #1316 will help in eliminating these biases? A personal journal can help keep track of your progress.