

Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1332: Am I Too Cynical or Not Cynical Enough?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1332-cynical/>

See:  CQ Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What is the definition of cynical? How does it differ from doubt? What is skepticism?
2. *Reputation or Track Record:* How did Jesus undermine any cynicism the disciples might have felt? What was Philip's sweeping generalization? How did Nathanael counter it? (John 1:35-51)
➤ What are some of my own unjust cynical generalizations? (Psalm 19:12)
3. *History and Tradition:* How did the Pharisees express cynicism? How did the Samaritan woman? How did Jesus react to both? How did Jesus enable the lawyer to "see" his own cynicism? (John 8:44-49, 4:7-10, Luke 10:30-37) What is the solution to this cynicism? (Psalms 1:1-3)
➤ How have I exposed and addressed my own historic and traditional cynicisms?
4. *Fear and Uncertainty:* How did the Israelites express cynicism? What was Moses' reply? What did the Lord promise? (Exodus 14:11-14) How do we solve this cynicism? (1 John 4:1)
➤ How readily do I stand by and observe God's deliverance when afraid?
5. *Self-doubt due to unrealized expectations:* Why would Elijah have felt self-doubt after his triumph over the priests of Baal? What was God's message to Elijah? (1 Kings 19:3-6) How can we combat this self-doubt? (Ephesians 4:21-24)
➤ How well do I respond when my self-doubt grabs hold of me? What process do I have in place to reverse this trend?
6. *Assumptions:* How can assumptions cause us to be cynical? What is the shift in thought that causes a "come and see" moment in this situation? (Romans 14:1-3,13-17) How do we avoid this cynicism? (Hebrews 12:12-15)
➤ How many of my assumptions about others are positive versus negative? What am I doing about this?
7. *Observing provable events that demonstrate disdain for all that is godly and righteous:* Discuss thoroughly the four steps to appropriately attain godly cynicism. Why did Jesus pronounce "woes" on the Pharisees? Was this necessary? Why is it especially important for us to exercise godly cynicism in our day? (Jeremiah 9:1-7, Matthew 23:37-39, 2 Timothy 3:1-5) How do we develop godly cynicism? (Colossians 4:5-6)
➤ How can I make sure I am regularly thinking about the foundation that any and all of my personal cynicism is built upon?
8. Why is it important that we work at not being cynical in a negative way, but do practice cynicism in a righteous way? What do you need to do to change either of these in your life?