


Rising Above Cynicism

NOT SAYING WE SHOULD NOT:



1. Accept reality - **1 Jn. 5:19**
2. Legitimate criticism - **Matt. 18:15**
3. Judge righteously - **Jn. 7:24**
4. Discern truth from error - **Heb. 5:12-14**

If your brother sins Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment. gained your brother.

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Cynicism


An attitude of scornful or jaded negativity, especially a general distrust of the integrity or motives of others.

Cynical

Inclined to believe the worst, especially about people.

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE DANGER



- > Cynicism is the dominant spirit of our age.
- > Cynicism is a negative attitude towards others.
- > Cynicism prevents positive action.
- > Cynicism kills growth and hope.

Rising Above Cynicism

| Examples | Doubters | Trusting |
|--|---|--|
| Israel on the border Numbers 13-14 | 10 spies - "we are not able ..." (13:31) | Joshua & Caleb (13:30; 14:8-9) |
| Gideon & Midianites Judges 7 | 22,000 Men who left the army - (7:3) | Gideon & his 300 - (7:15ff) |

Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to do it. Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' " And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

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| Examples | Doubters | Trusting |
|--|--|---|
| <p>"Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."</p> | | |
| Jonathan against the Philistines - 1 Samuel 13-14 | Saul and his 600 men army - (13:7) | Jonathan & his armor bearer - (14:6) |
| David & Goliath - 1 Samuel 17 | Saul & the whole army - (17:11,24,33) | David (17:32,37,45) |

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE CAUSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation...

- The Devil – **Rev. 12:10**
- A lack of faith in God – **Rom. 8:28-39**
- A lack of faith in God's Word – **Rom. 1:16**



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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE CAUSE

For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

- Pride – **Prov. 13:10**
- Self Righteousness – **Matt. 23:30**
- Carnality – **1 Cor. 3:1-4**
- Lack of Love & Mercy – **1 Cor. 13:4-7**
- Unreasonable Expectations – **Matt. 23:4**
- Hypocritical and unfaithful – **Rom. 2:24; 1 Cor. 15:33**

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE FRUIT


- We can easily become cynical:
 - and stop growing – **Heb. 12:3; 5:12-14**
 - and stop bearing fruit **Matt. 25:14-30**
 - and discourage others **Num. 13:31; 14:1-4**



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WE ARE MOST VULNERABLE


- If immature & double minded – **Heb. 5:12-13**
- When we sin – **Jas. 4:17**
- When others sin against us - **Matt 18:15**
- When others are our measure – **Lk. 10:40-41**
- Lack of success – **2 Cor. 4:7-17**



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WE ARE MOST IMMUNE WHEN WE

- FOCUS ON JESUS - His suffering, sacrifice & VICTORY – **Heb. 12:1-2**
- KNOW WE CAN overcome by faith – **Heb. 11:1-40**
- PURIFY OURSELVES - examine SELF not others – **2 Cor. 13:5**
- COMMIT TO THE WORK - get busy, make a difference – **Heb. 12:1**



Rising Above Cynicism

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**“To be builders, we
have to rise above
cynicism and believe
that it does good to
do good.”**