

I SAID TO MYSELF, “LOOK, I HAVE INCREASED IN WISDOM MORE THAN ANYONE WHO HAS RULED OVER JERUSALEM BEFORE ME; I HAVE EXPERIENCED MUCH OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.” THEN I APPLIED MYSELF TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF WISDOM, AND ALSO OF MADNESS AND FOLLY, BUT I LEARNED THAT THIS, TOO, IS A CHASING AFTER THE WIND. FOR WITH MUCH WISDOM COMES MUCH

ECCLESIASTES 1:16-18

SORROW; THE MORE KNOWLEDGE, THE MORE
GRIEF.

ECCLESIASTES 1:16-18



**Overcoming Seven
Enemies of the Soul**



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CYNICISM

AN INCLINATION TO BELIEVE THAT
PEOPLE ARE MOTIVATED PURELY
BY SELF-INTEREST





ECCLESIASTES 1

V. 1-11, 16-18





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THE MORE YOU KNOW,
THE MORE CYNICAL
YOU BECOME.



THE MORE YOU THINK
YOU KNOW, THE
MORE CYNICAL YOU
BECOME.



THE MORE YOU THINK
YOU KNOW, THE
MORE CYNICAL YOU
BECOME.





SCOFFER



SCOFFER

SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS MOCKING THINGS, LOOKING AT MOST EVERYTHING WITH DISDAIN OR SUSPICION.



**A SCOFFER SEEKS WISDOM IN VAIN, BUT
KNOWLEDGE IS EASY FOR A MAN OF
UNDERSTANDING.**

PROVERBS 14:6



**A SCOFFER DOES NOT LIKE TO BE REPROVED;
HE WILL NOT GO TO THE WISE.**

PROVERBS 15:12





WHAT CAUSES CYNICISM?



WHAT CAUSES
CYNICISM?

DISAPPOINTMENT.



...CYNICISM IS THE GOD OF THE THINKING PERSON. IN ECCLESIASTES, [THE TEACHER] BATTLED THE GODS OF MONEY, SEX, AND POWER, BUT THE ONE THAT CAME THE NEAREST TO OWNING HIS SOUL WAS CYNICISM. **CYNICISM IS THE TEMPLE TO WHICH WE FINALLY COME AFTER STOPOVERS AT THE**

JOHN SARTELLE



HOUSES OF ALL THE **OTHER** GODS. IT IS THE
TEMPLE AT THE END OF 'TEMPLE ROW.'

JOHN SARTELLE





“IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT
TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.”

JOHN 16:33





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BUT THANKS BE TO GOD! HE GIVES US THE
VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
**THEREFORE, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
STAND FIRM. LET NOTHING MOVE YOU. ALWAYS
GIVE YOURSELVES FULLY TO THE WORK OF THE
LORD, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR
IN THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN.**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57-58





RESISTING CYNICISM #1:
**BRING YOUR
DISAPPOINTMENT
TO GOD**



RESISTING CYNICISM #2:
**LEARN THE ART
OF CURIOSITY**



CYNICISM MASQUERADES AS WISDOM, BUT IT IS THE FARTHEST THING FROM IT. BECAUSE CYNICS DON'T LEARN ANYTHING. BECAUSE CYNICISM IS A SELF-IMPOSED BLINDNESS, A REJECTION OF THE WORLD BECAUSE WE ARE AFRAID IT WILL HURT US OR DISAPPOINT US. CYNICS ALWAYS SAY NO. BUT SAYING "YES" BEGINS THINGS. SAYING "YES" IS HOW THINGS

STEPHEN COLBERT

Killjoys



GROW. SAYING "YES" LEADS TO KNOWLEDGE.
[...] SO FOR AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO, SAY "YES".

STEPHEN COLBERT





RESISTING CYNICISM #3:
**LOOK THROUGH
THE LENS OF
THE GOSPEL**





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WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS
FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM,
WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS
PURPOSE.

ROMANS 8:28





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