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



#### CYNICISM

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





### ECCLESIASTES 1 V. 1-11, 16-18





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



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

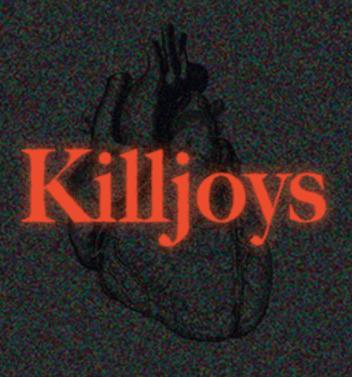


# THE MORE YOU THINK YOU KNOW, THE MORE CYNICAL YOU BECOME.





### 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.

Killjoys



## 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, BUTTHE 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."

Killjoys



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





# BRING 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



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

STEPHEN COLBERT





# LOOK THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL





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** 



