

Dig In

1. Cynicism unravels when God is the unrivaled desire of your heart.
2. Cynicism: A spiritual wound inflicted by comparison resulting in disdain toward others and distrust of God's goodness.

Check the statements below that describe you. You might be a cynic if...

- You harbor a lingering discontentment fueled by comparison.
- You speak with a scornful or jaded negativity.
- You are suspicious of the motives of people who have never harmed you.
- You distance yourself from others.
- You have attracted other cynics who enjoy your sarcastic humor.
- Your acquisition of knowledge has made you doubt the knowledge of God.
- You live with a spiritual numbness toward life, God and church.
- You wonder if prayer makes any difference.
- Pessimism has replaced optimism in ministry.
- You are convinced the future is bleak, all is hopeless, and revival and spiritual awakening are impossible.

With each of the statements above discuss how a proper perspective of God's goodness replaces cynicism with hope, trust, and love for others.

Break Out

1. Can you identify a hurtful event or lingering situation that triggered cynicism in you? Do you need to forgive a person for something that caused your hurt?
2. There is a sanctuary for cynics. You will continue to be cynical until you are near enough to God to see his goodness. Are you drawing close to him daily to strengthen your heart?
3. Memorize Psalm 73:25-26 together.

Additional Scripture

- Psalm 34:1-11
- Psalm 27:1-4
- James 4:8
- Hebrew 10:22
- Hebrews 12:14-15
- 1John 5:14-15