

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

November 29, 2016

Issue No. 275 Mark Aites, Editor

## **Cynicism**

"People have moved beyond apathy, beyond skepticism into deep cynicism." – Elliot Richardson

"I think we too often make choices based on the safety of cynicism, and what we're lead to is a life not fully lived. Cynicism is fear, and it's worse than fear – it's active disengagement." – Ken Burns

"Cynicism is the easiest of all reactions, right? But it's also so disappointing and self-defeating." – Chris Hadfield

"We can destroy ourselves by cynicism and disillusion, just as effectively as bombs." – Kenneth Clark

"Cynicism is intellectual treason." – Norman Cousins

People ask, "Just what exactly do you mean by cynical?" One source defines it, "A person who believes that people are motivated purely by self-interest rather than acting for honorable or unselfish reasons."

Part of this is brought on by the skeptical mind. A life of doubt and self-interest makes one a cynic. They do not trust anyone but themselves, after all, self is all that matters anyway. They believe that people only believe what they do to advance their own interests.

The tragedy in this is that the cynical mind finds its way into the church. These individuals can exhibit bitterness and act distrustful of others. They are pessimistic of the Christians long-held beliefs. And they hold the views of others with contempt.

It does not help that they are critical of the elders and the preacher. And it gets tiresome to hear the rhetoric that they are even doubtful of the Bible.

Often we find that their views are tainted by the beliefs of other cynics and skeptics. Everything is questioned and everyone is suspect.

This is but a tool of the devil. He wants us to question the Bible. He wants us to question the long-held beliefs of faithful Christians. He wants us to question the leadership in the church. He wants us to question the message delivered in the pulpit. He wants us to be skeptics and pessimists. It is an effort to drive a wedge into the church. It gives the devil a foothold to bring dissension into the ranks.

The Bible promotes faith, trust, and love. These things are foreign to the cynic. Be careful that you do not allow the views of others who hold the church in contempt to infect you. And be warned, this is much more infectious than you may realize.

It was Peter who admonished, "...love one another fervently with a pure heart" (1 Pet. 1:22). Remember, the heart of the cynic is NOT pure!