

The Danger of Misplaced Trust

Be Careful Who You Trust

Finding The Right Balance

We Should Be
Neither Cynical
or Gullible!

The Cynic

The Gullible

Rising Above Cynicism



cynical ('sinikəl) synonyms

- ♦ Pessimistic
- ♦ Suspicious;
- ♦ Distrustful,
- ♦ Defeatist,
- ♦ Negativist,
- ♦ Fatalistic,
- ♦ Skeptical,
- ♦ Derisive

cynical ('sinikəl) Antonyms

- ♦ Hopeful
- ♦ Unsuspicious
- ♦ Rose-colored,
- ♦ Believing
- ♦ Optimistic,
- ♦ Naïve; Gullible
- ♦ Trusting
- ♦ Positive,
- ♦ Idealistic.



The Danger of Misplaced Trust



- ♦ Both cynicism & gullibility can prevent us from knowing the truth!
- ♦ The cynic has difficulty trusting those who tell them about God.
- ♦ The gullible are susceptible to believing anything anyone tells them about God.

The Danger of Misplaced Trust

2 CORINTHIANS 11:2-4 (NKJV)

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

How Gullible Are We?

- ♦ Should we ban “dihydrogen monoxide”?
 - ♦ *Death due to accidental inhalation ...*
 - ♦ *Can severe tissue damage.*
 - ♦ *A major component of acid rain.*
 - ♦ *Can cause severe burns while liquid or gaseous.*
 - ♦ *Contributes to soil erosion & property damage & loss of life.*
 - ♦ *Decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.*
 - ♦ *Found in biopsies of pre-cancerous tumors and lesions.*
 - ♦ *Found in 100 % of all serial killers systems.*
 - ♦ *100 % of those exposed will die.*

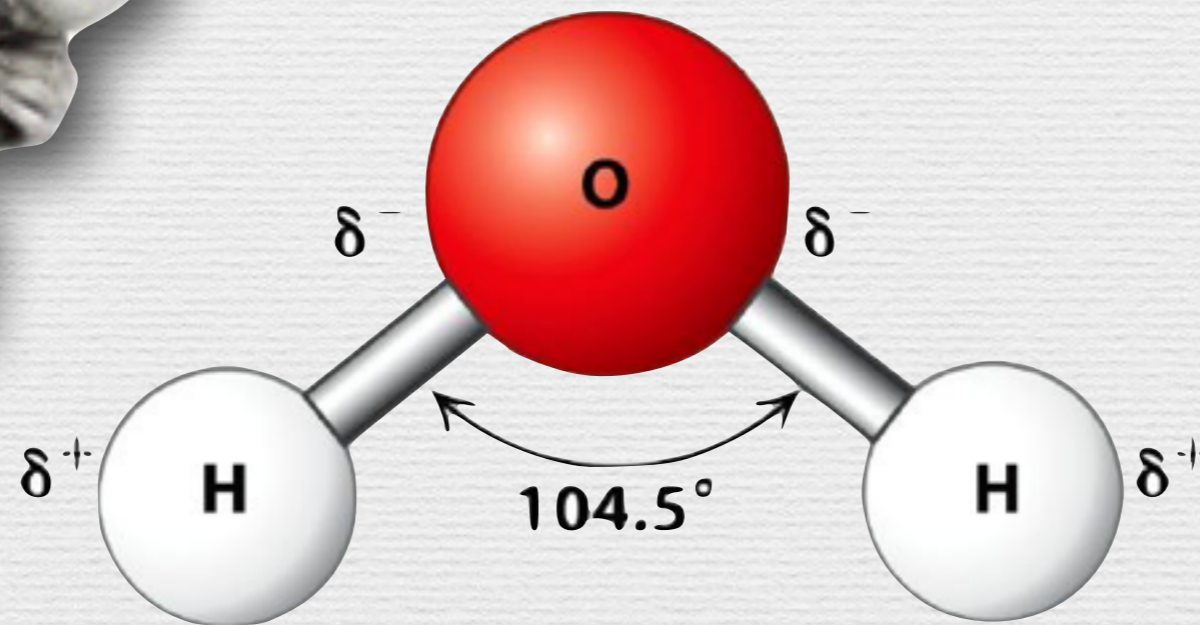
<http://www.dhmo.org/facts.html>



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

How Gullible Are We?

- ♦ Should we ban “dihydrogen monoxide”?
- ♦ *ETC.* - (science project Idaho Falls Science Fair, April 26, 1997)
- ♦ 86% said yes - 12% not sure - 2% said NO



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How Gullible Are We?

- Scam artist / companies / salesmen / etc.
- Modernistic Public Education / Atheistic /social change / promotes immorality / etc.
- Politicians / judicial system / government / etc.
- Religion? / false teachers / false doctrines / false churches etc.



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We Are WARNED

- False prophets use & destroy
- 1 Kings 13:18; Jer 23: ; Rev 19:20; 2 Pe. 2:1-3.
- They say peace when there is no peace - Je. 5:12; 23:17; Eze. 13:9,10,22; 2 Pet 2:18.19
- They deceive with flattery & hypocrisy - Ro. 16:18; Mat. 7:15; 2 Co. 11:13-15



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We Are WARNED

- MANY want lies - Jer 5:31; 2 Thes 2:10-12; 2 Tim 4:3,4
- Sinners suppress & twist the truth - Rom 1:18; Jn 3:19-21; 1 Tim 4:1,2
- Do NOT trust men or angels who teach a different gospel - Gal 1:6-9; 2 Cor 11:4
- We are to test the spirits - prove all things - 1 Jno. 4:1; 1 Thes 5:21; Rev 2:2



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

Can't Trust Ourselves!

PROVERBS 14:12 (NKJV)

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

PROVERBS 12:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel *is* wise.



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

Can't Trust Ourselves!

JEREMIAH 10:23 (NKJV)

²³ O Lord, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

JEREMIAH 17:9 (NKJV)

⁹ "The heart *is* deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?



The Danger of Misplaced Trust



The Cynic

Finding The Right Balance
Both extremes
lead to
UNBELIEF!



The Gullible

The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We Can TRUST God!



- ✦ **Because of Who God is -** (Omniscient; Omnipresent; Omnipotent; Eternal; Just; Loving; Merciful; Truth) - Ps 139:7-10; 147:5; Act 17:22-31; Tit 1:2; 1 Jn 4:8; Jn 17:17
- ✦ **God has proven Himself trustworthy** - (both positively & negatively) - Gen 12:1-3; Deut 7:9; 18:18; 28-30; Num 23:19; Acts 7; Heb 6:13-19

The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We MUST TRUST IN God!



ROMANS 3:3-4 (NKJV)

³ For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? ⁴ Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: *“That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.”*

The Danger of Misplaced Trust

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PSALM 119:160 (NKJV)

¹⁶⁰ The entirety of
Your word *is* truth,
And every one of Your
righteous judgments
endures forever.

The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We MUST TRUST IN God!

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We MUST TRUST IN God!

ACTS 17:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, ...



The Danger of Misplaced Trust

We MUST TRUST IN God!



EPHESIANS 4:12-15 (NKJV)

¹² for the equipping of the saints
...¹⁴ that we should no longer be
children, tossed to and fro and
carried about with every wind
of doctrine, by the trickery of
men, in the cunning craftiness
of deceitful plotting, ...

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2 PETER 3:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ...



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PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

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The Danger of Misplaced Trust



- ✦ Only place our faith in God's word -
- ✦ Let God's word be our ONLY standard for all we believe, teach & practice.
- ✦ Examine everything we are taught or think in the light of God's word!

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We MUST TRUST IN God!



- ♦ The way of salvation - Mk 16:16; Acts 17:30; 2:38; etc.
- ♦ How we are to worship - Jn 4:24; Col 3:16,17
- ♦ The organization & work of the church - Phili 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1-13; 1 Tim 5:16
- ♦ What we believe & practice - 2 Tim 3:16,17

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The Cynic



The Gullible

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HEBREWS 6:13-19 (NKJV)

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

HEBREWS 6:13-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,