

Romans 3:1-18

Talking to myself

Men to Men Ministries

Session 6 of ?

Groups in the church

All had belief

1. **The faithful ones. Romans 1:1-17**
Their belief was associated with actionable faith
2. **The intellectual Greeks Romans 1:18-32**
Their belief was associated with intellectual superiority
3. **The Roman moralists Romans 2:1-16**
Their belief was associated with the judgment of others
4. **The converted Jews Romans 2:17-29**
Their belief was associated with conformance to the Mosaic Law
5. **The skeptics Romans 3:1-20**
Their belief was associated with constant questioning.

Intersectionality

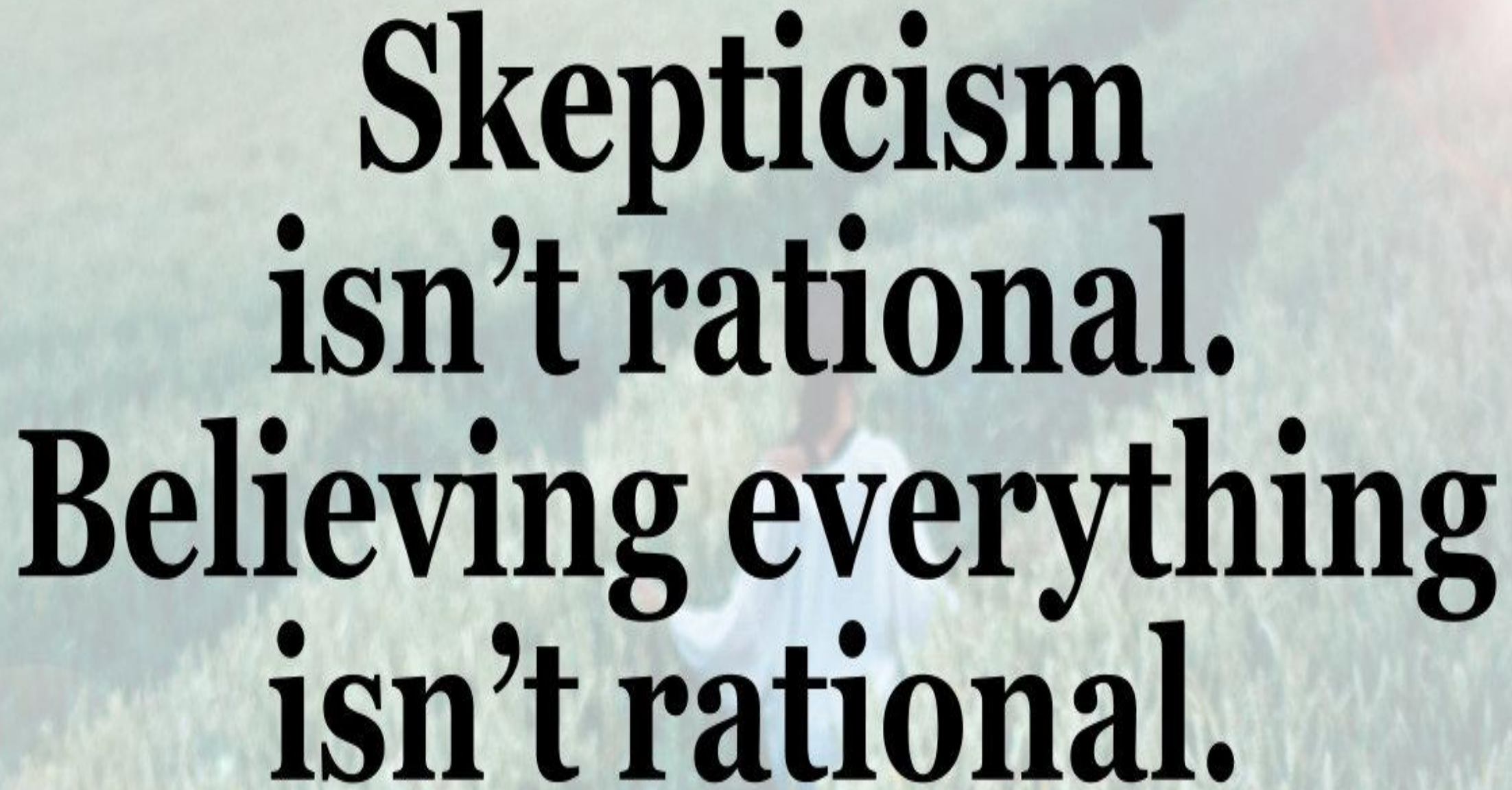
- **There is no one cause of action or reaction**
- **The individual is who he is because of multiple factors**
- **Paul was a picture of intersectionality**
 - Roman
 - Jew
 - Man
 - Greek
 - Christian
 - Prejudicial
 - Universal
 - Leader
 - Follower
 - Wealthy
 - Disabled (Thorn in the flesh)
 - Educated



Difficulty with this section

- It is about a group in the church that is all questions and no answers.
- Criticism of everything
- But what about this?
- Nothing was settled.
- There was always another question.
- Paul's discussion plays both sides.
 - Paul was a Jew
 - Paul was a Greek Jew
 - Paul was a Greek Jew that was a Roman
 - Paul could well take any viewpoint and connect with them
- Single texts can be taken and understood as the basis for poor theology and belief.

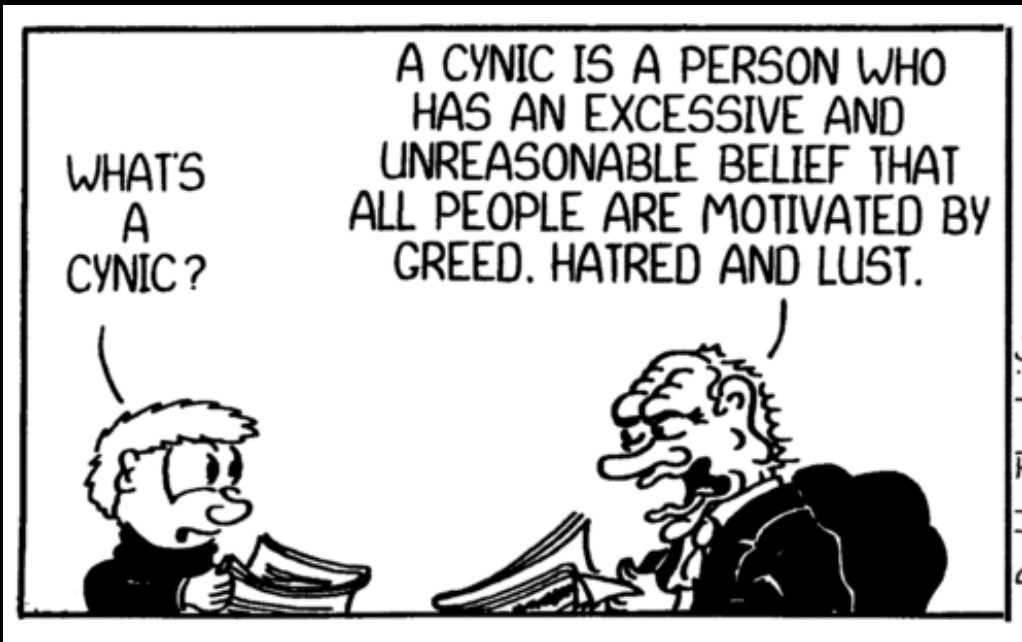




**Skepticism
isn't rational.
Believing everything
isn't rational.**

UNDERSTANDING CRITICAL THEORY





Cynicism

- I distrust the motives of others.
- Lack of faith or hope in other people
- Always look beyond the person and try to see only the motivation
- General lack of trust in people.
- Shameless nonconformity.
- “You are just saying that to convince me” “I question your questions” “You really don’t believe that.”
- “A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin.”



Question #1 - Advantage

Skeptical Jew

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?

Paul's response

Great in every respect.

First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Question #2 Exception to the rule?

Skeptical Jew

What then?

If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?

Paul's response

Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge"

Question #3 Failure makes God better

Skeptical Jew

But if our unrighteousness brings about God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath upon us? (Using a human skeptical argument)

Paul's response

Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world?

Question #4 Enhancement of God

Skeptical Jew

Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner? Why not say, as some slanderously claim that we say, “Let us do evil that good may result?””

Paul’s response

Their condemnation is just!

Question #5 Any advantage

Skeptical Jew

What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage?

Paul's response

Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

Paul provides existing answers to sin and unrighteousness. Romans 3:10-18

- ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;
¹¹ There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.
¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”^[a]
¹³ “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.”^[b]
“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”^[c] “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”^[d]
¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways,
¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know.”^[e]
¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.”^[f]

Are we ever so far
away from God that
we can't find Him?



Next Week Romans 3:21-31

- Read it this week at least three times Just 13 verses
- Introspection: Ask yourself if you have or are now judgmental. Look into every corner of your life and call them out. Make it a prayer to GOD to help you be different.