

# The Darkened Vision of Negativism

When it comes to seeing clearly and having God's perspective and outlook upon life, the subject of negativism must be talked about. This is a topic that we do not hear many sermons and lessons about.

## Does God care whether I'm negative or not?

1. Paul tells the disciples to REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS (Phil 4:4)
2. The word "Gospel" means "GOOD NEWS"
3. When the angels appeared to the shepherds in the field, they declared, "I bring you GOOD NEWS of GREAT JOY which shall be for all the people" (Lk 2:10)
4. In Romans, Paul quoting Isaiah, said: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things" (Rom 10:15)
5. God wants us to encourage each other (1 Thes 5:11)

## Negativism Is a Package Deal:

- It comes with complaining, which God hates (1 Cor 10:10-11)
- It comes with a judgmental, fault finding spirit, which God hates (Phil 2:3)
- It focuses upon what is wrong, rather than what is right
- It spreads discouragement and discontentment
- It blinds us to the blessings of God
- It is often found with jealousy and envy, which are works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)
- It drives out the very core qualities of the Spirit such as joy, peace, kindness and goodness (Gal 5:22-23)
- It is hard to be content when one is negative (Heb 13:5)
- It results in doing harm rather than good (2 Cor 13:10)

## What Causes A Person To Become Negative?

1. We live in a world that is broken and problematic. Things are wrong all around us. It's easy for us to only see problems.
2. Most people in the world are negative because they do not have faith.
3. The nightly news emphasizes the problems and brokenness of the world
4. The secular worldview of life leads to negativism
5. Sin and selfishness feeds negativism
6. Feeling like you have been cheated, overlooked, ignored can make a person negative
7. Some have grown up in a negative atmosphere and they have learned to see the world that way
8. Some do not know how to be any other way

About as wrong as being negative is a person who fakes that they are positive. It's not genuine and it doesn't come from the inside out.

### **A. Negativism Impacts Our Fellowship**

1. It's hard to sing joyful songs when one is not joyful
2. It dampens the joy of others (Heb 13:17)
3. It chips away at our unity
4. It kills the team spirit
5. It is unproductive and counter to evangelism
6. It keeps us from seeing our blessings
7. It puts brakes on projects, new ideas, new goals



**What do you say to someone who admits to being negative by nature?**

*"I'm just a guy who sees the glass half empty, rather than half full."*

### ***How does one see things more positively?***

- One must focus upon the right things (Phil 4:8)
- One must learn from Jesus (Mt 11:29)
- One must drink deeply from Good news—the Gospel
- One must make changes and limit the negative in his life
  - watch less TV, especially the news
  - put some distance between you and negative people
  - surround yourself with good, positive people and material
- One ought to rejoice in salvation and the blessings from the Lord
- One must believe
  - 1 Jn 4:4 greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world
  - Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me
- One must see that he is loved by God and that the Lord has trusted him with blessings and talents. God believes in us.
- One must look for solutions and not just see problems
- One must pour more energy into improving themselves rather than talking about others and judging and trying to change others
- One can sing joyful songs throughout the day
- One can rejoice with those who are rejoicing without thinking thoughts that are negative and trying to find motives that are less than noble
- One can be negative against sin and wrong and still a joyful person
- One can think about joyful people that they know. What do you like about them? What can you learn?
- One must learn to forgive themselves or else they will never be joyful