

## Doubters

### IV. Various Kinds Of Doubters.

**1. Honest Doubters.** Honest doubters are those *who have real intellectual difficulties*, and are willing to have them resolved...

**2. Skeptics.** Strictly speaking, skeptics are *mere doubters*. In popular estimation, however, the word skeptic has come to mean one who is more or less aggressive in his opposition to Christianity.

**3. Infidels.** Infidels are *avowed unbelievers*. There are various types of infidels, some being deists, some theists, some pantheists, some atheists, and some agnostics. All persons who reject the Bible and the Christian system are called infidels.

**4. Free-Thinkers.** Free thinkers are those *who claim the right to think for themselves*. Of course, most men, in the strict sense, make the same claim; few people would care to admit that they allow others to do their thinking for them. In the popular mind, however, the so-called *free-thinkers* are practically the same as infidels.

**5. Secularists.** This term stands for a class of unbelievers *who profess to care only for the present life*, and who say, "Let the future take care of itself." One of these men declared in a public address that his class of thinkers "do not deal much in futures." A noted infidel of the nineteenth century made the boast that he had all he could do to take care of one world at a time; therefore, he would take care of the present world, and let the future take care of itself...

**6. Cavillers.** This term is used to designate those *who haggle about small matters*. They are also called carpers. As a rule, they hunt for unimportant historical and other difficulties in the Bible (as, for example, where Cain got his wife), while they fail to consider the

great and comprehensive philosophy, world-view, ethical and spiritual teaching, and the gracious plan of redemption set forth in the Holy Scriptures. The person who will look at the doctrines of the Bible in a large way, from the creation of the universe to the destiny prepared for man, cannot be a caviller.

**7. Lamponers.** This term designates those *who use ridicule rather than argument...*

**8. Rationalists.** This class makes *human reason the final norm of judgment*. As a rule they mean that reason is either above or against the Bible, or both. They also mean *their own reason*, not that of those who differ with them. Their contentions seem to assume that Christian believers do not and cannot employ rational processes. Reason is their idol; they leave no room for faith and the Bible...

**9. Liberalists and Latitudinarians.** These terms designate those *who have some degree of Christian belief, but reject the orthodox view of the Bible and of the Christian system...* While they call themselves “liberal,” because they think themselves unfettered in their thinking, they are frequently intolerant of contradiction and extremely derisive towards orthodoxy...

(A System of Christian Evidence, by Leander S. Keyser, Burlington, Iowa: The Lutheran Literary Board, 1953 [1922], 37-41, Text Modified)