

# The Truth About Your Neighbors



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## John 9:13-34

Those of us who are Christians live in a sea of unbelievers who work with us, live next to us, shop where we shop, and send their kids to the same schools. Some have a mild case of unbelief disguised by religious practices. Others are more demonstrable in their agnosticism or atheism. Let's watch a local Jerusalem neighborhood struggle against faith in spite of clear evidence

# **The Truth About Your Neighbors**

## **John 9:13-34**

Our neighbors are the people across the street, across town, or across the globe. In this passage, one key issue is involved: a blind man who can now see. His life has been altered by a single touch from Jesus Christ.

# **The Truth About Your Neighbors**

## **John 9:13-34**

What does everyone else do with that? Instead of joy, they respond with skepticism, rancor, intractability, and anger.

What does the unbelieving world think of us?

# Percent of Americans who would not like the following minorities as neighbors

Catholics 1%

Protestants 2%

Jews 3%

Hispanics 9%

# Percent of Americans who would not like the following minorities as neighbors

Unmarried Couples 12%

Blacks 13%

Religious Fundamentalists 13%

## What Some Unbelievers Say About Christianity

"Christianity is the most ridiculous, the most absurd, and bloody religion that had ever infected the world." –Voltaire

"Religion is the most malevolent of all mind viruses" –Arthur Clarke

"Christianity is a religion for losers..." –Ted Turner

# I. Unbelievers Can be Ceremonial (vv. 13-17)

Love rituals, ceremonies, practice observances,  
law, hide behind church, but don't believe in  
Jesus Christ

Mishna-outlined 39 rules concerning the  
Sabbath



# I. Unbelievers Can be Ceremonial (vv. 13-17)

Maimonides - not lawful to put spittle on the  
eyelids

Everything Jesus did was forbidden by their  
laws

Jesus healed on the Sabbath seven times

## I. Unbelievers Can be Ceremonial (vv. 13-17)

People who love policy over people, strain a gnat and swallow the camel—Matthew 23:24

"All religions have been made by men."

"Religion is excellent stuff for keeping common people quiet."—Napoleon Bonaparte

## II. Unbelievers Can be Skeptical (vv. 18-25)

Without cautious skepticism and discernment,  
truth wouldn't have a chance  
(there is a difference between  
honest doubt and unbelief)

# HOW TO GIVE A THREE MINUTE TESTIMONY

1. Before I received Christ I lived and thought this way? (30 seconds)
2. How I received Christ? (one minute)

# HOW TO GIVE A THREE MINUTE TESTIMONY

3. After I received Christ these changes took place? (1 minute and 30 seconds)

4. Pertinent or favorite verse by which I might close?

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