

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

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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.

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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%

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

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)

III. Unbelievers Can be Irrational (vv. 26-33)

Unbelievers are often guilty of the irrationality
they accuse believers of

Can't be a good God in an evil world

So many religions, how can you be right?

III. Unbelievers Can be Irrational (vv. 26-33)

Doesn't matter what you believe if you are
sincere

Bible has a lot of mistakes, cannot be taken
seriously

III. Unbelievers Can be Irrational (vv. 26-33)

Outthink the world for Christ!– J.I. Packer

Have a reasonable faith–William Lane Craig

Dinesh D'Souza *What's So Great About
Christianity*

Christianity is under attack in our culture

Fox Poll

56% say Christianity is under attack

Among white evangelical Christians

81% say Christianity is under attack

Christianity is under attack in our culture

Fox Poll

Among Protestants 68% say Christianity is
under attack

Among Catholics 54%

59% Protestants and 54% Catholics say
Religious influence is waning

IV. Unbelievers Can be Inflexible (vv. 34)

The evidence doesn't matter

Rejecting Christ is not only a matter of the
mind, but of the will

IV. Unbelievers Can be Inflexible (vv. 34)

Unbelief of a searching heart - "I don't know,
but I want to know."

Unbelief of a hardened heart - ask for more and
more evidence but refuse to believe

How do we respond?

To the ceremonial: make it all about Jesus.

To the skeptic: be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you. – 1 Peter 3:15

To the irrational: bone up on apologetics

How Do We Respond?

To the inflexible: stay away from them. Don't cast your pearls before swine.—Matthew 7:6

You can have a satisfied mind and a peaceful heart. —Thomas Aquinas