

Questions for Home Church  
“What Every Human Needs”

Text Matt 8:1-4

Take time to read the text in your group

**Questions**

1. What can this passage teach us about God?
2. What can it teach us about people?
3. When have you been tempted to stigmatize a people group?  
Definition of Stigmatize is “It’s a mark of disgrace somehow associated with a person **or** his or her circumstance” Dictionary.com
4. From Thom Rainer’s list below. Which comment from a non-Christian surprises you the most?
5. From the same list, how could this reality change how you interact with non-Christians?
6. What would be the advantages of that practice? What would be the disadvantages?

Sermon Notes

Breaking Down Labels

What Non-Christians Really Think About Christians

By [Thom Rainer](#) December 22, 2016

Thom Rainer has interviewed thousands of unchurched non-Christians. Among the more interesting insights he has gleaned were interviews with him about their perspectives of Christians. Here is a list of the most common 7 statements in order of frequency and a direct quote from a non-Christian.

1. Christians are against more things than they are for.  
“It just seems to me Christians are mad at the world and mad at each other. They are so negative, they seem unhappy. I have no desire to be like them and stay upset all the time.”
2. I would like to develop a friendship with a Christian.  
“I’m really interested in what they believe and how they carry out their beliefs. I wish I could find a Christian who would be willing to spend some time with me.”
3. I would like to learn about the Bible from a Christian.  
“The Bible really fascinates me, but I don’t want to go to a stuffy and legalistic church to learn about it. I would be nice if a Christian invited me to study the Bible in his home or at a place like Starbucks.”
4. I don’t see much difference in the way Christians live compared to others.  
“I really can’t tell what a Christian believes because he doesn’t seem much different than other people I know. The only exception would be Mormons. They really seem to take their beliefs seriously.”
5. I wish I could learn to be a better husband/wife/dad/mom, etc., from a Christian.  
“My wife is threatening to divorce me, and I think she means it this time. My neighbor is a Christian, and he seems to have it together. I am swallowing my pride and asking him to help me.”
6. Some Christians try to act like they have no problems.  
“Harriett works in my department. She is one of those Christians who seems to have a mask on. I would respect her more if she didn’t put on such an act. I know better.”
7. I wish a Christian would take me to his or her church.  
“I really would like to visit a church, but I’m not particularly comfortable going by myself. What is weird is that I am 32 years old, and I’ve never had a Christian invite me to church in my entire life.”