

# The Division

John 9:15-34

## Introduction:

- When you see the word division in the New Testament (minus Revelation) it is a great thing.
- We find a division here in verse 15.
- Jesus ask the blind man that would show their is a division in washing on the sabbath.
- **recent video on youtube:** Jesus came to abolish religion. That's the whole point of the poem. Whether this argument is fair depends on your definition of religion.
- Religion can refer to Judaism (Acts 26:5) or Christian faith (Acts 25:19). Religion can be bad when it is self-made (Col. 2:23) or fails to tame the tongue (James 1:26). But religion can also be good when it cares for widows and orphans and practices moral purity (James 1:27).
- **If we are going to confront the unbelief in our community we are going to have to confront the religious!** If you never have your eyes open to this truth you would never be able to share in the wonderful work of bringing sight to the blind!
- The greatest miracle Jesus will be seen in v. 35, 36. AFTER he is thrown excommunicated by the synagogue Jesus finds him!

**Tonight we look at blind people who stay blind! We will look at the unbelieving side of this division. Asking God to give us a deeper concern for our lost community.**

## I. The Division

A. The believing and unbelieving see things differently.

### **Titus 1:15**

B. We are surrounded by it.

1. We have seen it though the book of John.

a) Jesus told Nicodemus he won't believe eternal things if he can't believe earthly things.

b) Those who saw miracles and did not believe. John 6

c) Pharisees of John 5:38,39, 44 they didn't have the word in their heart and honored each other.

d) The Galileans John 8:35 would not believe the truth.

C. Syllogism in this story.

**a deductive scheme of a formal argument consisting of a major and a minor premise and a conclusion**

1. **Committed Pharisees:** He broke the sabbath He must be a sinner. (v.24)

a) We know not the "fellow" (v.29)

b) Didn't believe before they even started asking questions. (v.18)

2. **Confused Pharisees:** He did miracles he can't be a sinner. (v.18).

3. **Blind man:** I can see He must be from God.

a) You don't know who He is but He opened my eyes (v.30)

b) He must be of God to heal. (v.33)

*You have probably experienced this type of unbelief and different view worldview personally in your family. I saw it clearly on two occasions this week. (phone call & visit)*

## II. The Disbelieving

Chapter 9 classifies for us in great detail the characteristics of willful ignorant unbelief.

A. Plays by its own rules

*Much like playing a board game with a small child.*

*Regardless of what you do you will lose. They are not playing to compete but playing to celebrate “winning”.*

*But this is no game.*

1. They thought Jesus failed the test.
2. They new miracle happened on the Sabbath and they brought him as evidence against him.  
(v.14) **Emphasis being on the Sabbath.**
  - a. couldn't make mud on sabbath
  - b. apply spit to the eye
  - c. make a man better
  - d. could not wash
3. Jesus had confronted this before. Luke 6
  - a. They were watching to see what He would do. (v.7)
  - b. he knew there thoughts and did it anyway. (v.8)
  - c. Ask them if they thought he should have done evil or good. (v.9)
  - b. Furious he healed on sabbath (v.10)
4. Set a false standard for proof of deity.
  - a. He cannot be God because he broke our rules.
  - b. Unbeliever: You must be god if you set the rules.

B. They see every move made as more support of the fact they are right.

1. Back to the “unrighteous filter” seen in **Titus 1:15**
2. They question the cowardly parents. (v.21)
  - a. parents feared being excommunicated.
  - b. They were silent about truth they knew.
3. Reject the facts so they look for another story.
  - a. **Truth:** I know I can see (blind man)
  - b. **Their Belief:** We know we hate Him (pharisees)
  - c. Only saw evidence to support their premise.

*Many Christians live with the same fear. They fear being excommunicated from their social network. They remain fully silent about truth they know. NOTHING contributes to the confusion over the GOSPEL in America than these people.*

*Why is the Gospel so misunderstood because you want to please the crowd more than you want to praise the Christ!*

C. Believe they always win.

1. Always want more evidence.
  - a. Continue to ask the same question. (v.8)
  - b. Moses talked about apostates who see the truth and reject it willfully, blind willfully. **Deut. 32:20**
2. Jesus did not play their game.
  - a. He knew their unbelief was not due to a lack of evident but a lack of faith.
  - b. Comical: John 7:42,43 They said he can't be Messiah because he wasn't born in Bethlehem.

### III. The Decision that must be made.

*You know, there's only one thing more amazing than healing blind eyes and that's this kind of unbelief.*

- A. The blind man had a choice to make.
  - 1. He was told to wash on the Sabbath.
  - 2. He had been sitting in front of the Synagogue. He had to give up all “merit” in his old life.
- B. The divided Pharisees had a choice to make.
  - 1. They hated him for the choice he revealed they were making.
    - a) Made it clear their opinions were not equal. Got personal. (v.34)
  - 2. Some of them were like the crowd at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:57). They could not bare the truth an longer.
  - 3. **Unbelievers:** Are willing to to do anything but to repent and acknowledge they are sinners.

Jesus does not meet the religious qualification to be God. I am glad they do not make the test.

#### **Application**

There are many in this world that are not willfully unbelieving but just HAVE NEVER HEARD! When they hear of Jesus they will say like many in verse 12 said “Where is HE!”.

On the other side of the line of the division of unbelievers there are the **WILLFULLY UNBELIEVING**. We must fast and pray for them! Tonight should have sobered us to the reality and horrific nature of the unbelieving heart.