

**Don't Be Ashamed**

The world may hate you

Are you a secret agent Christian?

**Rejecting Him Then**

“Where does he get these things... wisdom, mighty works?”

“Is not this the carpenter?”

*How did Jesus' growth serve as an example?*

*Nazareth was located four miles from Tiberias, Herod Antipas' capital city in Galilee*

“the son of Mary?”

*He is called by his mother's name, not his father's, a reference to his allegedly illegitimate birth*

*This argument against his authority is totally irrelevant, non sequitur, a distraction.*

“the brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon?”

*Acts 1:14 – “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”*

*What would it take for you to eventually believe that your brother was the Son of God?*

Why couldn't he do any work there? (vs. 5)

*Is it because Jesus needs faith to do miracles...? No! (Mark 4:39-40)*

More evidence of this being eyewitness testimony

*When you investigate the reliability of an ancient document, one sign that it is trustworthy is that it contains information that hurts the cause of the writer*

**Rejecting Him Now**

He marveled at their unbelief (vs. 6)

*Not that there were unbelievers, but at the extent of their unbelief*

Rejection because of science

*Einstein’s static universe*

All are without excuse – Romans 1:20-21 “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Rejection because of inconsistency

*If there’s no absolute morality, then that removes the right to moral outrage  
Where does human value come from? Human rights?  
All of the best things in our world stem from God’s character.*

Rejection because of misunderstanding

**Questions for Personal Study**

1. Have you ever suffered embarrassment or ridicule for being a Christian?
2. Do you think Jesus’ childhood should be a model for our children? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean that the Gospel offends all types of people? Talk about this with someone.
4. What are the reasons people you know reject Christianity? Can you give them an answer?