



DIFFERENCE MAKERS

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

“Whether crouching in small cave dwellings or rushing among the skyscrapers of our modern cities, and in farms, fishing villages and everywhere in between, human groups have asked themselves: Who belongs with us? Who does not? Who is my enemy? Who is my friend? Who must I care about? Who can I ignore? Who must I protect? Who may I harm? It is a daunting challenge that the New Testament summarizes in four words: “Who is my neighbor?”

– Cecilia Gonzalez Andrieu

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

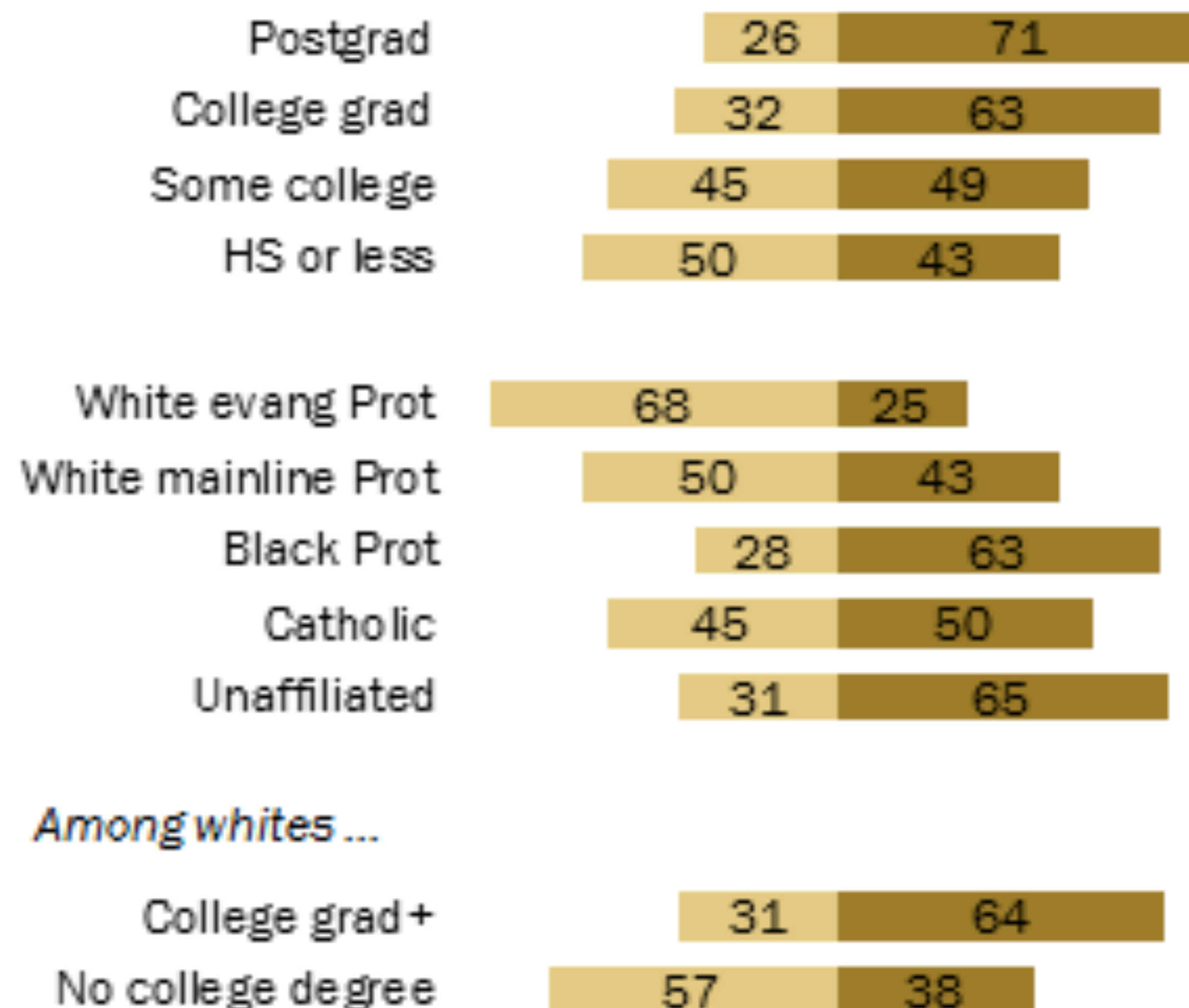
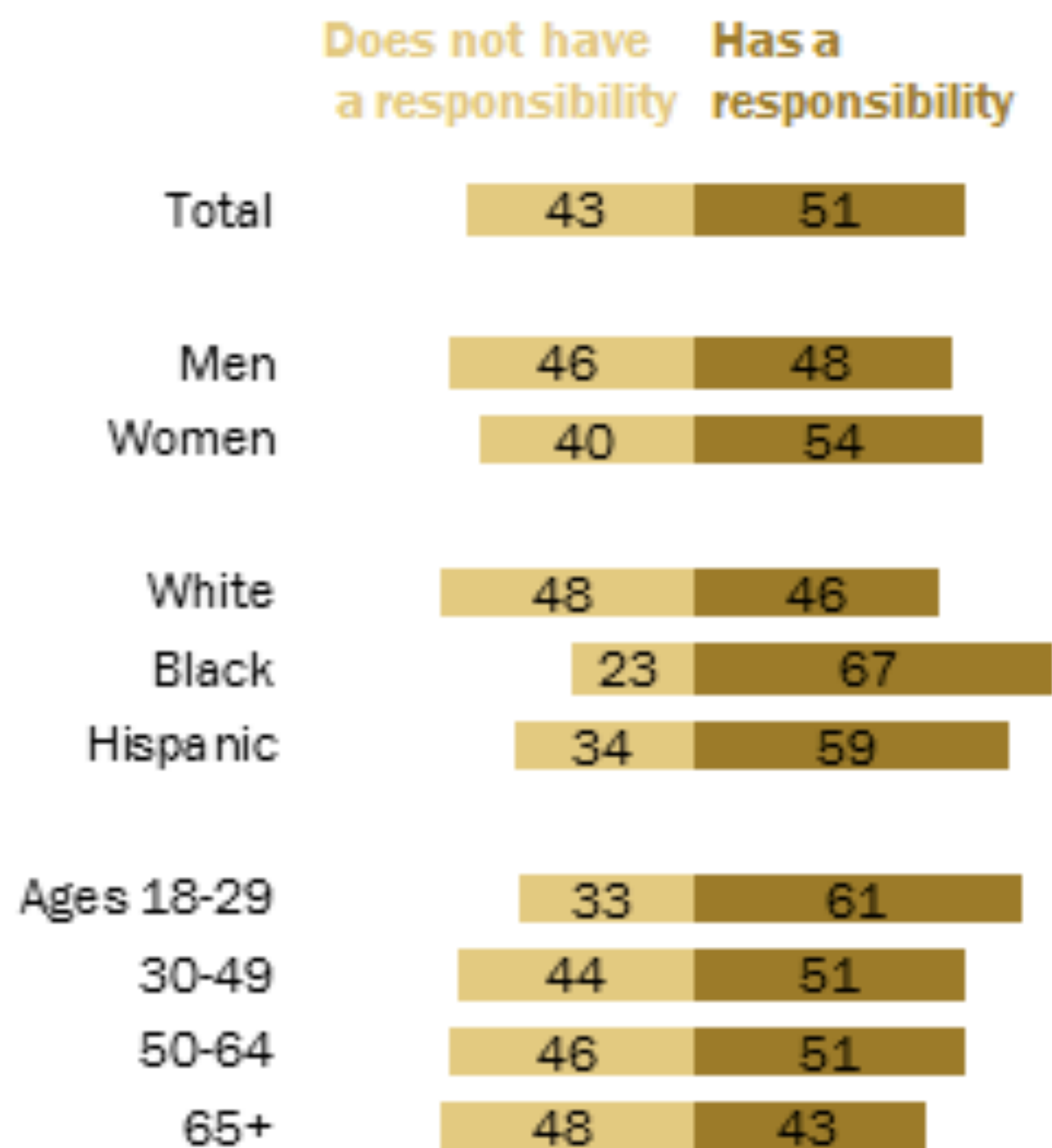
35 The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37

New International Version

Race, age, education differences on U.S. responsibility to accept refugees

% who say the U.S. ___ to accept refugees into the country



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

“When Jesus said to love your neighbor, a lawyer who was present asked him to clarify what he meant by neighbor. He wanted a legal definition he could refer to in case the question of loving one ever happened to come up. He presumably wanted something on the order of: “A neighbor (hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part) is to be construed as meaning a person of Jewish descent whose legal residence is within a radius of no more than three statute miles from one’s own legal residence unless there is another person of Jewish Descent (hereinafter to be referred to as the party of the second part)

living closer to the party of the first part than one is oneself, in which case the party of the second part is to be construed as the neighbor to the first party of the first part and one is oneself relieved of all responsibility of any sort or kind whatsoever."

Instead, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, the point of which seems to be that your neighbor is to be construed as meaning anybody who needs you. The lawyer's response is left unrecorded."

- Fredrick Buechner



**“The Biblical test case for love of God is love of neighbor.”
“The Biblical test case for love of neighbor is love of enemy.”**

- Brian Zahnd

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

1 John 4:18-21

New International Version

**"It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?"**

**It's a neighborly day in this beautywood,
A neighborly day for a beauty,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?"**

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you,
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.

So let's make the most of this beautiful day,
Since we're together, we might as well say,

Would you be mine?

Could you be mine?

Won't you be my neighbor?"


- Fred Rogers

A lightbulb hangs in the center of the frame, illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The background is dark with numerous out-of-focus light sources, creating a bokeh effect of soft, glowing circles. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

What does the neighborhood look like?

“Here is the world (neighborhood)...Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid.”

- Frederick Buechner



“We could say, using our theological language, that the neighbor here is the one who, as made by God, shares our imago Dei. We are variations on a theme, the theme of finite yet strikingly beautiful and varied images of God who need each other.”

– Cecilia Gonzalez Andrieu



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