

## The 8 Most Shocking Realizations From A Fader

### JW / Ex-JW Tales

I'm about a month away from fully completing my fade and I've been living as if I were "worldly" for sometime now, though I still try and follow Christian standards (which are MUCH different than borg standards). Like many of you, I quickly realized the world is so much more relaxed and humble than any congregation I've been in. These are 8 things that have really shocked me about "the world".

#### **1. "Worldly People" Are MUCH, MUCH Nicer Than Most JW's**

I was always told like many of you that people in the world are "just out for themselves" and they're extremely psychotic, satanic and deceitful. The truth is, those types of people will be found in any group you look at. But on average, I've seen the opposite to be true.

"Worldly people" actually have empathy unlike JW's. There's no "well you should've done this better" or "focus only on the positive aspects of life" no no no. Normal people acknowledge life can sometimes suck and people need time to process and move on from things. I've felt way better and supported listening to complete stranger's advice than any elder's advice I've been given.

#### **2. Jehovah's Witnesses Are Some Of The Most Awkward People On The Planet...**

I had no idea just how awkward I was being around strangers when I was PIMI. As a JW, I was taught to push anyone who isn't "in the truth" away and avoid even a superficial relationship of any kind with them. Even when I'd open up, it would be about controversial religious topics and as you could imagine, that's a little too intense for 99% of people you'll meet.

But I know I'm not alone in this. Have you ever felt awkward and aimless in public for no reason? Did you ever struggle to simply acknowledge a classmate or coworker as an actual person so as to avoid a conversation with them? Has there been times where you made friends outside the organization but quickly drew yourself away so as to not have "bad association" in your life? I'm guilty of all 3 of those things. The worst part? That's considered normal in the organization.

### **3. Personal Beliefs Are (Usually) Deeply Respected**

From my experience in the ministry, I just thought that everyone rude to me at the door was clearly going through something or were just straight up clowns for not even giving me the light of day. This led me to believe that we should always keep our opinions silent unless we are to preach. But...

On any other topic it's not the case. Why? People are much nicer when we don't enter into their yards and wake them up at 9am on a Saturday morning. I live in a very liberal state and despite being a libertarian who leans more to the conservative party, everyone has been extremely respectful debating with me, even if they strongly disagree. This goes beyond politics too. It's just such a contrast to how heated religious arguments would get. The ugliest conversations I've ever had were at the door trying to debate a trinitarian or atheist. But even worse was having disagreements with other JW's...

Do you disagree with the governing body or an elder? That calls for immediately being called into the back room and "counseled" for simply having a different opinion. They will shame you into oblivion until you feel like such a piece of shit you don't even feel like you can make decisions for yourself.

### **4. "Apostates" Can Be Very Kind People**

I've talked to several apostates recently both in-person and online and they're not at all what the organization claims them to be. They're usually just deeply hurt individuals who got dealt a bad hand and just wants to make sure that nobody else every falls victim to the mental oppression of the borg. Now, there are some very hateful and bitter apostates too and they seem to be a vocal minority which gives the rest a bad name. But I'm sure they're the most hurt ones.

### **5. Judgemental People Are Rare Outside The Borg**

This probably took me by the most suprise for whatever reason. The constant "keeping our brothers and sisters in line" BS we all got at one time or another led me to believe that if these were God's people who are so loving, then people in the world must be much worse. And I realized quickly that I was mistaken.

You have beard? Who cares. You have a skirt that's above the knees? Who cares. You wear ripped jeans? Who cares. You do more than just missionary sex in the bedroom? Who cares. You believe in God, are agnostic or atheist? Who cares. You celebrate Christmas? Who cares.

It's so mentally liberating I can not put it into words.

## **6. Nobody Good Sexualizes Teenagers**

After stepping back, I now find it incredibly weird and disturbing just how much teenagers were sexualized in the organization. Once a girl starts developing breasts, all of a sudden all the sisters will tell her exactly how to dress so it's "modest". My wife said around 12-13, she'd constantly get sisters checking her boobs out and tell her to wear higher collars so as to not show cleavage. She also said quite a few elders in her congregation told her parents that "she's going to cause alot of trouble for brothers" which is just...ew. There's a minimum 30-year age gap between her and an elder.

Then on the brother's side, the elders are obsessed with whether you masturbate or watch pornography. Every single conversation I would have with an elder when I was 14-17 was about just that. I was always told that if I masturbate it would "make me gay" and after tens of thousands of meat-beatings later, I'm still as straight as an arrow. Probably TMI, my bad lol. But why in the world are teens so sexualized in the organization?

Try any of what I just listed in the world and see how long it takes to be put on a certain registry...

## **7. My Actions Aren't Always Under A Microscope**

I remember the first time I let a curse word slip put of my mouth, my heart sank. I thought I was going to have to tell the elders and break down in tears to maybe, just hopefully attain Jehovah's forgiveness. I was never so fearful in my life. Now looking back at that, it's a funny story. But at the time, I thought I just spoke my way out of paradise.

In the world though, it couldn't be more opposite. Most of the time it's actually hard to trigger someone the same way you can trigger a JW. The difference I've seen is in the world judgemental people are hated, but in the borg they're idolized.

## 8. Nobody Cares That You're An EX-JW

I thought I had the most interesting story ever because I escaped a cult (or at the very least a high-control group) but uh, nobody who's not an exjw themselves really seems to care. I think I feel victim to the idea often preached by the GB that the religion is so unique and whatnot that I subconsciously believed it myself. Back to number 2 if you want to see how that went.

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Kingoftheheel

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1 day ago

Coerced Member of a Cult

100 You articulated this so well. Saving this post. We've been gaslit when you dissect it all. The world has it's issues, no one can doubt that. But overall we live in a society, and people are willing to help, listen, and support you when you really need it, and it's not always based on your religious affiliation.

59

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Snoo38044

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1 day ago

Also, JW's believe they are the most special people on the entire planet.

They are so special that they are not going to get old and die.

They are the ONLY ones who are going to survive the coming Armageddon by God.

Everyone else will be murdered by God and eaten by birds.

So don't marry anyone that will be murdered by God, it's a waste of time, marry only another Jehovah Witness, even if that JW is a pedophile.

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doomedtobloom

23 hr. ago

Okay but I've seen the actual real version of this play out.

I move to a small town cong, try to make friends. Not a lot of people my age. Start hanging out with 2 guys and 1 girl around my age. Guy 1 and girl obviously like each other. Guy 1 low key starts missing meetings, declining invitations to hang out. People worried about him.

Months later, it comes out that he molested his niece. Everyone is devastated. He goes to jail, serves time, gets out early on good behavior. (Only 2 years)

Meanwhile, the poor girl is trying to recover, experiments with dating other jw guys. None of it works. She tries dating a nice wordly guy, gets caught and loses privileges in cong. Tries dating a non believer family member of some JW's in cong. Non believer starts coming to meetings. For whatever reason that doesn't work out. He stops coming to meetings.

After awhile, guy 1 who committed crime is reinstated, out of jail and considered a good jw because he repented/is going to meetings now blah blah blah. Eventually they start dating. It's a bit of a scandal. They get married.



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CallsignViperrr

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1 day ago

I'm your Huckleberry!

I'd have to say that of all the items you listed, the last one resonated with me the most.

Nobody gives a shit about JW's. Nobody! Most people don't even know who they are, or even heard of them! So much for the "preaching work", huh? At best, it's seen as a weirdo fruit-loop sect who don't celebrate anything and dress like they're from the 1950's.

This hits hard because as a born-in, it's constantly ingrained into you that you're special cause you're born into the Org, that Satan's world is out to get you, that you're doing the most important work in the world (preaching) and Satan's world hates you for that. Simultaneously, you're told that JW's are highly respected, known for their honesty, and highly sought after by employers strictly because they are JW's.

Once I was old enough to start working (16), I quickly discovered that was all bull-fuggin-shit! Nobody cared that I was a JW during an interview. It didn't get me any special treatment. Nobody gave a shit. I also never felt like anyone was out to get me, or that Satan was using worldly people to "stumble" me "outta da truth."

The leadership suffers from delusions of grandeur. That's all it is. They're nuts, and crazy is contagious.



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dancingraccoons

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1 day ago

Funny how a group professing to be christian suffers from plain old egocentrism that Jesus preached so much against.

Most problems JW's face come from the sheer from the cult of GB personality and their supposed perfection. If GB had a grain of humility, it would allow them to see the mistakes they are making and grow a bigger cult.

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logicman12

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18 hr. ago

That (your whole post) is so damned true!

This hits hard because as a born-in, it's constantly ingrained into you that you're special cause you're born into the Org, that Satan's world is out to get you, that you're doing the most important work in the world (preaching) and Satan's world hates you for that.

I remember a point in a KM article. It must have been either '89, '90, or '91. I say that because I know where I was at the time it was covered at a midweek meeting, and I was only in that area during those years. The article stated in a serious manner that JWs had enemies behind the scenes plotting against them. The wording made me think that the Great Leaders knew something they couldn't tell us and that we were really special on the world scene and that there were powerful entities plotting against us. I believed it at the time, but I gradually awakened and I now view it as a load of BS. Most of the world didn't give a damn about some puny religion whose theology was largely based on the delusional writings of a socially awkward old man who wore flannel shirts and talked to his shoes.

So much for the "preaching work"

I've said that often. JWs think that one of the major signs that they are the one and only true religion is that they fulfill Mt 24:14. The preaching work is lame and always has been. Even back in the 80s, etc. when the org was stronger, the preaching work was lame. Most JWs weren't qualified to sell vacuums, much less present a life or death message in a way that would fairly invite/warn the public. Also, most of the literature placed was filled with fluff so even people who might have had some interest would usually miss the important parts buried in the fluff.

There is no possible way the preaching of JW's could serve as a fair and just warning by a fair and just God that he's about to bring a violent global destruction.

Nobody cared that I was a JW during an interview.

I've had to mention it in interviews because, otherwise, I look like a loser. I was in for decades as an elder / reg pio, supporting myself with part-time menial work during those years. So, I have to explain that I was in a full-time volunteer ministry to account for those years. Nobody has given a damn, at least in a positive way. They might have even viewed it negatively (nobody told me that, though).

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PeeMoe

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1 day ago

What a great post! Thanks for taking the time to share that.

Most of what you describe doesn't surprise me. JW behavior is a product of cult life.

24

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machinehead70

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1 day ago

You're right. Saying you're an ex JW to a non JW is like someone telling you that they used to be Catholic. Nobody cares. But if you tell a current Dub you used to be a JW .....Pearl clutch and the look of horror.

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lostinspacepimo

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1 day ago

Pomo 8/2020 [jwfacts.com](#), [avoidjw.org](#)

That was a great read! It's a great 8 list. Thanks heaps for sharing your insights and experiences.

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emberpass

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1 day ago

Fantastic summary!

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Boozeled

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1 day ago

5! I've still met a few judgy, gossipy people but they don't hold a heavy weight on my life or decisions. Once you feel the weight lifted life can be amazing. I used to "love" people, now I respect people and that makes a huge difference in interactions and relationships.

14

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lescannon

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1 day ago

Sure, but the fact you don't have to pretend to like everyone is liberating, so it is usually easy to avoid jerks. I used to think percentage-wise JWs matched everyone else, but now I think that JWs are worse on average, because of minding everyone else's business and shunning/marketing to encourage better compliance.

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no\_more\_control

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1 day ago

I agree with all those items, all true!

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borghive

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1 day ago

This is the way!

Welcome to the real life.

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Elecyah

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1 day ago

This my flair. There are many like it, but this one is mine.

So well put. Kudos!

So, so true. Even perfect strangers have shown me more kindness than the average person in the Kingdom Hall, lol. I absolutely hate when JW's say, "Only in God's organization..." I got news for them: Any organization helps their own people. I had that phrase repeated at me one time when picking up people from the local KH and my car battery went dead. Apparently only JW's jump start cars. Funny how it's worldly companies that make the equipment - just for JW's to use! 🙄♀️☐

I was allowed to have worldly friends, so I'm probably not as awkward as I could have been. I'm still shy and weird, though. It comes from having been forced to stand out from the crowd with the religion all throughout my formative years. I've learned to live with it.

Lol. Religion and politics. 🙄 My in-laws are religious AND split down the middle as regards to politics. There have been some animated discussions in family get-togethers. I often am glad that my house is big enough that ppl can relocate to different rooms if need be. Still, even after animated discussions, we all come together again for the dessert and gather again for the next holiday. Nobody is shunning anyone.

Yup. I used to wonder why the apostates bother picketing the convention. Why do they care?? Why don't they just go and live their lives, if they don't want to be JW's. Well, now I know. We care because we were hurt and we know there are people still hurting inside. We care because we still have people inside. 🙄

Ikr! Nobody cares, as long as you aren't hurting anyone. And then there's JW's claiming they are the most loving, accepting people, but here's the list of rules you shouldn't break. 😏

Wow. Yeah, I've heard a lot of stories like that over here. It wasn't my experience, really, because my mother watched what I wore, and I dressed more modestly than the elders' kids in the congregation and I was invisible anyway. 🙄♀️ Even then, I developed a distaste for showing cleavage, for baring my midriff and for skirts that go above the knee.

Heh. Yeah, I don't remember when I cussed the first time, but I picked up the habit rather easily - even after 22 years of nothing worse than 'shit.' I live in the south, though, and I have to watch my mouth in public, and around religious people in general. What I REALLY hate is when I have people over and a religious guest is laying down law about not cussing at non-religious guests - in MY house! 😏

JW's are SO much less important than they think that it's almost not even funny. 🙄 I've got one friend who is interested in my exJW'ism. She's interested in cults and things. The difficulty is that she is also very religious herself, so... when I tell her about some crazy doctrine, for example, instead of going, "Wow, that's weird!" she'll start telling me what the Bible ACTUALLY says about the subject - according to her own religion's interpretation. 🙄 It's a bit difficult trying to tackle what to say and what not to say, sometimes. I don't want to offend her, after all.

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timmy\_whitebear

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7 hr. ago

"Only in God's organization..."

90s were a very difficult time in Russia, and my mother constantly reminds me that "if it were not for the JW, we would have starved to death." She ignores arguments that this was to the advantage of this religious group or that other religious groups do the same.

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TinCanFlanMan

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1 day ago

I was shocked how my relationship with my neighbors changed when I stopped interacting with them as if they were evil and I couldn't be too friendly for fear of making friends.

It's like I just moved here and I have had all these random gifts. Berries, rhubarb, squash, wine, 'plants'... from different neighbors. I actually feel like my rural neighborhood is a supportive community for the first time. I just never let myself in. Now I feel I could ask anyone for help and I know it will be there. It's a surreal feeling after living here for 15 years to be accepted by my neighbors. The only thing that changed was my attitude toward them. I love finding community. It's all around me. I just didn't know.

8

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gdubh

Cake day

.

1 day ago

Re #4: By definition, you, yourself are an apostate. 99% of people here in this sub are apostates. I'm sure there are shitty ones as well as very nice ones. Just like every other group of people.

7

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DebbDebbDebb

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1 day ago

I was brought up Catholic and the debates that went on, enough for some to have smoke coming out of their ears. (Normal, heated debates) and the priest you could debate/argue with (no elders to take you away to the backroom) then back to agree to disagree 😊 arrangements. Then home or down the pub or the social club where anyone could attend.

But I came here to say thankyou because its nice you get it and understand the average people around.

My pimi sister joined at 32. She is now 65 and I reckon adores feeling so special.

Yes she is very judgemental and very sly. She is definitely jw brain damaged.

Enjoy everyone you meet along your journey. The strange, different, weird and wonderful ohh and the average ones.

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level 1

al\_guien152628

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19 hr. ago

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edited 6 hr. ago

Extremely well put my friend. Thank you for posting this. I am 2 days away from becoming POMO and have been reaching out to some 'worldly' contacts that I have to build up a network. And all of your points just hit the nail on the head.

Just an experience: I made a mistake and have to live with that, but I have not received one call or text from 'friends' I have known for years. That one mistake undoes everything. I went to my last meeting in person and just received all these judgmental looks from the congregation. I reach out to a guy I met when at a coffee shop one day (never preached to him but we just started chatting and exchanged numbers), and he asks how things are going, I tell him and right away he invites me out for a beer lol. Just goes to show the truthfulness of points 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8.

I think the points you shared are very insightful and have personally helped me to identify a lot of things I need to work on, to 'uncondition' my mind from a lifetime of indoctrination by the borg.

Thanks again for posting this.

5

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DR\_mark\_II

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8 hr. ago

When I messaged close friends to tell them that I had been disfellowshipped, some replied with kind words and I felt their sadness at the news. One very close friend (or so I thought) who was at Bethel with me and I was best man at his wedding never even responded.

3

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cruza1827

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1 day ago

Great read! You hit every point 100%.

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MyLittlePIMO

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1 day ago

8 is the only thing I disagree with! When I tell people I recently left a cult there's a barrage of questions.

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PIMOandlovinit

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1 day ago

Dude, what was wrong with that elduh that only wanted to talk about slapping the ham? Was he grooming you? 🤔🙄🤢 Either that or he didn't know the meaning of the word "boundaries"

👤♂☐

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mightierthor

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23 hr. ago

Jehovah's Surprise Witness

I thought I had the most interesting story ever because I escaped a cult

You do, actually. It's just that almost nobody knows anything about JWs, except that they are the people going d2d. Even I, who have been on this sub for a bit, am still regularly having "Wait. What?!" moments. And this includes the fact that I have an ex-JW buddy, but I guess I never asked the right questions. I didn't grasp how insidious it all is. Your friends might not be catching on. And it's fine if you don't want to explain the whole thing. It's also fine if you do, but realize it might take a lot of explaining.

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Makeyurownway

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1 day ago

Well said!

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kjohnst03

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1 day ago

Thank you for sharing.

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BoadiceaMama

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1 day ago

Absofreakinglutely i could have written this myself

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noparadiseforme

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1 day ago

I am finding out the same. Worldly people are actual - mostly - really nice people.

I am a little awkward but I tried hard to fit in at school, so I can adapt well. But obviously have issues from JW life.

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ziddina

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1 day ago

'Zactly!

I thought I had the most interesting story ever because I escaped a cult .....but uh, nobody who's not an exjw themselves really seems to care. .... the idea often preached by the GB that the religion is so unique and whatnot that I subconsciously believed it myself....

Bring up refusal of blood transfusions, and the massive scandals of sexual predators within the WT Society being in effect protected while the victims are expected to come up with two eyewitnesses to the assault (and even then the WT Society often directs the elders NOT to report the situation to secular authorities!), and you'll see much more interest - and revulsion - in your audience.

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linuxisgettingbetter

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1 day ago

"One....Oooooohhh One...the only way is ONE"

I feel angry I feel helpless...

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exjw1879

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20 hr. ago

PIMO wants out.

I'm still living at my parents place but hope to move out, one of the big question marks for me is how are you supposed to meet people? I want to figure this out. Thanks for the post.

3

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redmoon714

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19 hr. ago

Try to go to college even if it's a junior college, or go on meetup find something you're into.

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Zembassi8

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1 day ago

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edited 1 day ago

I, being POMO for over 15 years, really appreciate your thread and points enumerated. Especially #s 1, 4, and 8.

I have encountered a moderate number of NIs who, regardless of their knowledge that a person is a dub or exdub, will treat people according to how they personally feel about the person (if they like the person, they will show respect; don't like the individual; disrespect is shown).

The same concerning the former dubs: Not all are for each other. Some have reverted back to whatever points of view they had before conversion and some have developed certain viewpoints as time when on due to their experience in the Borg and the people they associate with. For example, a few of my now exdub relatives and I went to a meet-up a few years and were introduced to a group of exdubs by the hosts. After the initial pleasantries, two of the exdubs' facial expressions automatically changed from smiles to frowns, and these two walked away quickly, mumbling some insults. We later mentioned to our hosts about that; they told us that these two "were not happy to see that there were P.O.C.s at this event" and "felt uncomfortable being there".

The people who are nonrelatives (NIs) don't care about a person's belief system (former or present)--as long as they show respect/human decency/honesty towards them and others, there was no big deal made. WT makes a GIGANTIC DEAL out of everything!



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Klown\_Kutz

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1 day ago

I never got any of those conversations from any elder as a teenage boy. I do know of one elder who had them with every teenage boy he could. He was later disfellowshipped and I did hear a rumor that something went on with one teenage boy but it was just that, a rumor.

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ziddina

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1 day ago

'Zactly!

Psst... If you want to fix the numbers on your opening post, just edit it to put a reverse slash in front of the period. \ .

1.

7.

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12TribesOfTightPants

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1 day ago

Funny, I've had what seems to be the complete opposite experience from everyone here regarding point 8. It seems like once somebody first finds out I used to be a JW they have so many questions and that dominates the conversation for the next while.

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Stayin\_Gold\_2

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21 hr. ago

Most nonJWs find my exJW story very interesting. But that's just how it rolls for me. I love telling people that I was a JW elder for 14 years and now view it as harmful bullshit. The bartender I told my story to 2 weeks ago is married to an exJW. She was all to happy to hear my story and tell her husband about me. He's heard my name before around the Houston area, I was a "big wig" in the RBC and disaster relief a decade ago.

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painefultruth76

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18 hr. ago

Deus Vult!

#8 only resonates with other people that have been involved in cults and escaped or survived. It's a frame of reference problem...they CAN'T understand.

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logicman12

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18 hr. ago

7. My Actions Aren't Always Under A Microscope

Ain't that refreshing? I got so tired of being under a microscope.

I remember years ago an elder asking me when were working door-to-door together something about how I shaved. He was hinting that my face wasn't shaved close enough. Sometimes I would shave in the direction that the hair on my face grew in because it hurt to shave in the other direction. I didn't get as close a shave, but, damn, I thought it was good enough. Screw those self-righteous bastards. I can't remember the last time I've shaved now. Just run some clippers over my face every week or two to keep a neat beard.

I don't have to worry about having my car or my bookbag or my shoes scrutinized. There are many other ways in which I'm no longer scrutinized.