

## Only One True Religion? Part 3

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-20-16

### Review

### Proselytizing

“Proselytize” =

#### Axiom #4 - “It is arrogant to insist your religion is right and to convert others to it.”

- Late philosopher John Hick: once you become aware that there are many other equally intelligent and good people in the world who hold different beliefs from you and that you will not be able to convince them otherwise, then it is arrogant for you to continue to try to convert them or to hold your view to be the superior truth.
- **Problems:**
  - Self-refuting contradiction
  - You can't say, “You are wrong and arrogant to think you're right” without being guilty of the very thing you are accusing someone of.

All these axioms contain self-refuting arguments, contradictions, and hypocrisies

- Based on presuppositions = \_\_\_\_\_ statements
  - A religion can be judged only on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_ religion.
- Skeptics believe that *any* exclusive claims to a superior knowledge of spiritual reality cannot be true.
  - This is an exclusive claim to a superior knowledge!
- Skeptics are proselytizers!
  - Mark Lilla: “I wanted to cast doubt on the steps he was about to take, to help him see there are other ways to live, other ways to seek knowledge, love, even self-transformation. I wanted to convince him that his dignity depended on maintaining a free, skeptical attitude toward doctrine. I wanted...*to save him.*” (emphasis added)
  - It is no more narrow to claim one religion is right than to claim that one way to think about all religions is right.
  - **Everyone is \_\_\_\_\_ in their beliefs, but in different ways.**

### Christian Proselytizing

The Christian motivation = \_\_\_\_\_

- Great Commandment/Commission
- Knowing this gives us:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to face opposition and accusations
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to the nature of our engagement

- “Truthing in love” - Ephesians 4:15
- Tim Keller: “Many people who take an intellectual stand against Christianity do so against a background of personal disappointment with Christians and churches. We all bring to issues intellectual predispositions based on our experiences. If you have known many wise, loving, kind, and insightful Christians over the years, and if you have seen churches that are devout in belief yet civic-minded and generous, you will find the intellectual case for Christianity much more plausible. If, on the other hand, the preponderance of your experience is with nominal Christians (who bear the name but don't practice it) or with self-righteous fanatics, then the arguments for Christianity will have to be extremely strong for you to concede that they have any cogency at all.”
- We must avoid \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- Penn Jillette - If you really do know the truth, how much would we *hate* someone by not trying to convince them of it?

## Review Matthew 10