

THE MYTH OF RELATIVISM

Is 7 the sum of 2+2? Is “up” above us or below us? Does the law of gravity operate only in certain cultures? Is the rape of a seven-year-old child good, neither good nor evil, or evil? Can black be both black and white simultaneously? Is *truth*, like *beauty*, only in the eye of the beholder? Such questions accentuate the philosophical current of our time—*relativism*.

Relativism and its first cousins, *subjectivism*, *agnosticism*, and *humanism*, are hardly new concepts, dating at least back to the Greek sophist, Protagoras, 2500 years ago. His credo, a thing “is to me such as it appears to me, and is to you such as it appears to you,” well expresses the mantra of today’s pervasive *your-truth, my-truth* postmodernism.

Relativism manifests itself in many areas of our lives, including science, art, entertainment, politics, morals, historical perspective, and religion. It has led to the tyranny of “political correctness,” “situation ethics,” revisionism of history, and to displaying human waste as “art.” In religion, *relativism* holds that there is no one true, exclusive religion; the same religion can be true for one person, while not true for others.

In other words, *relativism* denies the existence of absolute, objective truth at all, with one notable exception, which is the relativist’s Achilles’ heel: He cannot even state his creed without advocating at least one thing he believes to be an absolute, objective truth. His creed is that **all things are relative**. We immediately want to ask him if his creed is absolute and objective. If he answers “No,” why should we give him a hearing? If he answers “Yes,” he thereby denies what he has affirmed. Absolute, objective truth to

the relativist is that there is no absolute, objective truth. *Relativism* is thereby exposed as the manifestation of irrationality that it is.

Since there is this one exception to his thesis, might there be more? If there is absolute truth in mathematics (i.e., $2+2=4$), might there not be in other areas of thought, including religion—matters of the soul? The relativist despises the Bible, principally because it dares to make absolute, exclusive truth claims: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

Relativists charge Christians with arrogance, all the while arrogantly advocating *relativism*. Relativists boast of their tolerance, all the while having no tolerance for the Bible’s truth claims. Relativists despise evangelism by Christians, all the while eagerly seeking converts to their irrational dogma.

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