

**Problem**

The resurrection is an objective matter affecting either everyone or no one

**Text****Everyone or No One - the context**

*it is an objective event affecting either everyone or no one - 1 Cor 15:1-8, 12-22*

**No One Is Neutral - the problem**

Acts 17:16 ¶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was **full of idols**.

Acts 17:17 **So he reasoned** in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching **Jesus and the resurrection**.

Acts 17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

Acts 17:20 For you bring **some strange things** to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."

Acts 17:21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in **nothing except telling or hearing something new**.

*some strange things - because they suppressed the truth - Rom 1:18-32 (21) - idolators*

*telling or hearing something new - Ecc 1:2-11 -without God all is vanity of vanities- presuppositions*

*problem was his presuppositions - are you willing to believe that it could be true?*

**Everyone Is Religious - the comparison**

Acts 17:22 ¶ So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way **you are very religious**.

Acts 17:23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

**(parmenides-zeno student - whatever is IS unchanging ontology—> we cannot be an I AM cause we are constantly changing yet we use this term because we must exist in some sense inside an I AM)**

Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

Acts 17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

*Idols are dumb - Isaiah 40:18-25; 44:9-17 -*

*all of them - Ecc 2:1-17 (trophies, beauty, success, etc)*

*do your idols hold up to scrutiny*

**Everyone Is Valuable - the Biblical argument**

Acts 17:26 And he made **from one man every nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

Acts 17:27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

Acts 17:28 for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

¶ as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For **we are indeed his offspring**.’

*no idols - no pictures - why?... Exodus 20:1-6 -*

*From one man - you are the picture - Gen 1:26-27*

*Every nation - all of you- every nation*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. (declaration of independence)*

*what do you base the value of people on? What is a better presupposition?*

**Everyone Is Accountable - the implication**

Acts 17:29 ¶ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Acts 17:30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

Acts 17:31 because he has fixed a day on which **he will judge the world in righteousness by a man** whom he has appointed; and of this **he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.**"

*Resurrection proves God doesn't grade on a curve - Matt 3:13-17 (contrast Rom 1:18) ; 5:17-20, 48  
Proves Christ the standard - Matt 9:1-6 - you see me you see the Father "I am the one being wronged" (I am the one who is mad -*

*the basis of this forgiveness - 1 Cor 15:42-57 - the the image of Christ*

**Some Will Be Saved - the choice**

Acts 17:32 ¶ Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked.** But **others said,** "We will hear you again about this."

Acts 17:33 So Paul went out from their midst.

Acts 17:34 But **some men joined him and believed,** among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

*Understand the hope - 1 Pet 1:3-9*

**Main Idea - Acts 17:29-31**

The Resurrection proves that you have value, that you will be judged and that God doesn't grade on a curve.

**Implication - general acts 17:32-34**

This affects you

are you casual about it? are you casual about cancer or winning a million dollars? find out

you are not a neutral party

are you willing to concede that the Resurrection could be true? to say no is to say far more than that you don't believe it.

Everyone is religious

recognize your own presuppositions need to hold up to scrutiny. do they?

Everyone is valuable

what is the basis for the liberty an inalienable rights you hold dear in this country if not the image bearing of God in man?

Everyone is accountable

the very thing that gives us value demands us to be judged- the very idea of a perfect God demands perfect justice

Some will be saved

your family cannot respond for you, your friends cannot. you alone must either put your faith in the living resurrected Christ or remain believing in your dead idols.

**Application - 1 Peter 1:3-9**

you must respond but when you do you will see that your hope is not in an argument but in the Risen Savior Himself who is alive right now-

the Resurrection proves that He has pursued you to this very moment -

**here are some articles for further study and to better prepare you for 242 group:**

*regarding an objective gospel:*

<http://www.pastortullian.com/2011/07/05/the-subjective-power-of-an-objective-gospel/>

*regarding presuppositional apologetics as PART of a comprehensive argument:*

<http://jwwartick.com/2012/07/09/van-til-presup/>

*an article by an atheist regarding the claim that everyone is religious (ie has a worldview):*

<http://weighingevidence.com/2015/03/21/atheists-are-no-fun-to-talk-to/>