

# Two Men on a Bridge

Comedian Emo Philips tells a story about two men on a bridge, one of which is about to commit suicide. He relates this story in order to demonstrate how crazy denominationalism can become. Many of us can identify with this mindset since I grew up in a very narrow-minded denomination called the Church of Christ. Listen to this story to see if you can recognize yourself. To set the stage for this story, we should keep in mind that one person was about to jump when another person approached this individual to try to talk him out of this frame of mind. This story begins when it turns to religion:

**I said**, “Are you a Christian or Jew or a Hindu or what?”

**He said**, “A Christian.”

**I said**, “Small world! Me, too. Protestant or Catholic or Greek Orthodox?”

**He said**, “Protestant.”

**I said**, “Me, too! What franchise?”

**He said**, “Baptist.”

**I said**, “Me, too! Northern Baptist or southern Baptist?”

**He said**, “Northern Baptist.”

**I said**, “Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?”

**He said**, “Northern Conservative Baptist.”

**I said**, “Me, too! Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist or Northern Conservative Reformed Baptist?”

**He said**, “Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist.”

**I said**, “Me, too! Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist, Great Lakes region, or Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist, Eastern Region?”

**He said**, “Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist, Great Lakes Region.”

**I said**, “Me, too! Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879 or Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?”

**He said**, “Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912.”

**I screamed**, “DIE HERETIC!” And I pushed him over.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Cited from Jerry Newcombe, *Coming Again* (Colorado Springs: Colorado: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999), 45. I (Dallas Burdette) highlighted “I said” and “He said” in order to facilitate ease of reading. This story was transcribed from video (routine by comedian Emo Philips), reproduce in Michael J. Hostetler, *Illustrating the Sermon* (Grand Rapids: Ministry Resource Library, Zondervan, 1989), 78-79. I am indebted to Gary R. Habermas and Michael R. Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004), 43 for citation reference.