LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR MIND: A STUDY IN LOGICAL THINKING



Part One The Basics



Logic:

- The study and application of the principles of correct, rational reasoning.
- To think logically is to think correctly.
- To think logically is to think as God thinks.



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Argument:

 A coherent series of reasons, statements, or facts intended to support or establish a conclusion.





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The argument:

- I. What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? [He will do good for the sheep]
- II. How much then is a man better than a sheep? [He would do good for man in same situation]





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The conclusion: Wherefore [yes] it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

Understanding logic will help you to expose bad thinking whenever and wherever it occurs. This is an extremely useful skill to have in a world of deception. Moreover, when you study logic, you are studying an aspect of the mind of God! You are learning to think in a way that is consistent with God's thinking. We call the study of God "theology." In a sense, logic is one aspect of theology because we are learning how God thinks. This is not only a spiritual blessing, but it is very practical. Since God controls the entire universe, the more you study how God thinks, the easier it will be to understand how the world works. The study of logic will enable you to think more correctly about everything else: from science and mathematics, to the Bible itself.

Jason Lisle, Introduction to Logic



Genesis 1:27

So God created man **in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.





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Isaiah 1:18a

Come now, and let us **reason together**, saith the LORD:





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1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to **give an answer** to every man that asketh you a **reason** of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:



Romans 3:4

God forbid: yea, **let God be true**, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.





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2 Corinthians 10:5

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;





Romans 12:1–2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.









Logic gets a bad rap







Logic gets a bad rap



Let's define some terms























As stated before, the formation of a **conclusion** based on one or more accepted facts is called an **argument**.

The claims that make up the argument are called **propositions**.

A given proposition is always either true or false.

Questions ("Have you read your Bible?") and commands ("Read your Bible") are not propositions.

Two types of Propositions In an argument, the proposition you are attempting to prove is called the conclusion.

The other propositions used to support your conclusion are called premises.





An example

- The weekly Sabbath is always on the seventh day of the week.
- Today is the seventh day of the week.
- Therefore, today is the weekly Sabbath.

Three propositions: Two premises and one conclusion.



An **argument** is a series of propositions in which the truth of one (the **conclusion**) is based upon the truth of the others (**premises**)

An **argument** is considered to be valid if:

- All the **premises** are true.
- The **conclusion logically follows** the premises.

If one or more of the premises are false or the conclusion is not supported by the premises, then the argument is weak or invalid.



An example

- The weekly Sabbath is always on the seventh day of the week.
- Today is not the third or sixth day of the week.
- Therefore, today is the weekly Sabbath

Still three propositions: Two premises and one conclusion... but the conclusion does not logically follow the premises.



An example

- The weekly Sabbath is alw ys on the seventh day of the week.
- Today is not the third work sixth day of the week.
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Still three propositions:

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Romans 1:21

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2 Peter 3:4

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.





An argument in which the conclusion is **certainly true** if the premises are true.





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Inductive Reasoning

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In both cases, the conclusion must logically follow the premise(s) – such is the basis for logical thought.



- All our snowstorms come from the north.
- It's starting to snow.
- Therefore, this storm is coming from the north.





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Inductive Reasoning

- Almost all of our snowstorms come from the north.
- I seem to get headaches only when the storm comes from the north.
- It's starting to snow, and I have a headache.
 - Therefore, this storm is coming from the north.



An Inductive Example

- The human body can withstand a limited amount of external force being applied before serious injury or death occurs.
- A fast-moving train exerts enough force to kill a human being.
- I am a human being.

Therefore, if I step in front of a fast-moving train I will be killed.





Cogito, ergo sum, "I think, therefore I am"

René Descartes





Cogito, ergo sum, "I think, therefore I am" René Descartes

- 1. All things that exist have been created.
 - i. Nothing has ever been discovered to contradict this premise.
- 2. The Universe exists.
- Therefore, the Universe was created.





The Law of Non-Contradiction

This law states that a proposition p and its opposite (negation) cannot be true at the same time.

For example:

The 'Sky is blue' P and 'The sky is not blue' cannot both be true at the same time.

If the premise is 'The sky is blue' and it is not the case that the sky is blue, then the statement is false.



Not



The Law of The Excluded Middle

This law states that if one proposition is true, the other is always false, without exception.



There is no third option – if both can be true or false at the same time (in the context of the argument) then the proposal is false / invalid.



The Law of Identity

This law states that If **P** is true then **P** is true.

If the sky is blue then the sky is blue.





Christians have a basis for these Laws

Laws of logic are universal, invariant, abstract rules of thought that govern all correct reasoning.

- **Universal** meaning they are the same everywhere in the Universe.
- Invariant meaning they never vary or change.
- **Abstract** meaning they have no physical substance, they exist in the mind.





Law of Non-contradiction

2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot **deny** *[contradict]* himself.





Law of Non-contradiction

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Law of excluded middle

Deuteronomy 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day **life and good, and death and evil**;





Law of Non-contradiction

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Deuteronomy 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

Law of Identity

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.





















Argument: a coherent series of reasons, statements, or facts intended to support or establish a conclusion.

Propositions: true / false statements that, when taken together, constitute an argument. There are two basic types of propositions.

Premises: true propositions that support the conclusion.

Conclusion: the truth that logically follows the premise(s).



Arguments establish their conclusion in two main ways.

- **Deductive reasoning**: An argument in which the conclusion is always true if the premises are true.
- **Inductive reasoning**: An argument in which the conclusion is likely to be true if the premises are true.





Logic follows laws. The three basic laws are:

Law of Non-contradiction: a proposition P and its opposite 🖶 cannot be true at the same time.

P can never equal



Law of The Excluded middle: if one proposition is true, the other is always false, without exception.

If P is true, then Mot P must be false

Law of Identity: A thing is always equal to itself



If **P** is true, then **P** is always true.



Strong or Valid argument:

- A deductive argument where all the premises are true, thus the conclusion must be true.
- An inductive argument in which all the premises are true and the conclusion is very likely to be true.

Weak argument:

• An argument (deductive or inductive) in which the conclusion is not certainly or highly likely to be true (but it might be true). 52



Invalid argument:

An argument in which one or more of the propositions are false.

- Premise(s) might be false
- Conclusion is false based on premise(s)
- Logical fallacies and cognitive biases:
- Flaws in logic that will be covered in future parts of the series





James 1:14-15 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.



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A thief may think:

- I really, really want that \$100.
- The current owner is rich and won't even miss the money.
- I could buy my homeless buddy a hamburger with some of it.

Therefore, it is okay for me to steal it

Logical, rational thinking is to pursue truth. It puts our knowledge, decisions and actions on a firm foundation - Truth.

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Romans 8:28-29

And **we know** that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.



Colossians 2:6-9

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.



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ENJOY THE REST OF THE SABBATH

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