

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



PART TWO THE BASICS



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

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1 PETER 2:2 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS





Ephesians 5:1 (NLT)

Imitate God, therefore, **in everything you do**, because you are his dear children.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NLT) We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We **capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them** to obey Christ.

Romans 12:2b

...be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind



Isaiah 1:18a

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

H3198 – yâkach - yaw-kakh'

A primitive root; to be right (that is, correct); reciprocally to argue; causatively to decide, justify or convict: -

appoint, argue, chasten, convince, correct (-ion), daysman, dispute, judge, maintain, plead, reason (together), rebuke, reprove (-r), surely, in any wise.



Proverbs 3:12

For whom the LORD loveth he **correcteth**; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Proverbs 9:8

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: **rebuke** a wise man, and he will love thee.

Proverbs 25:12

As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise **reprover** upon an obedient ear.

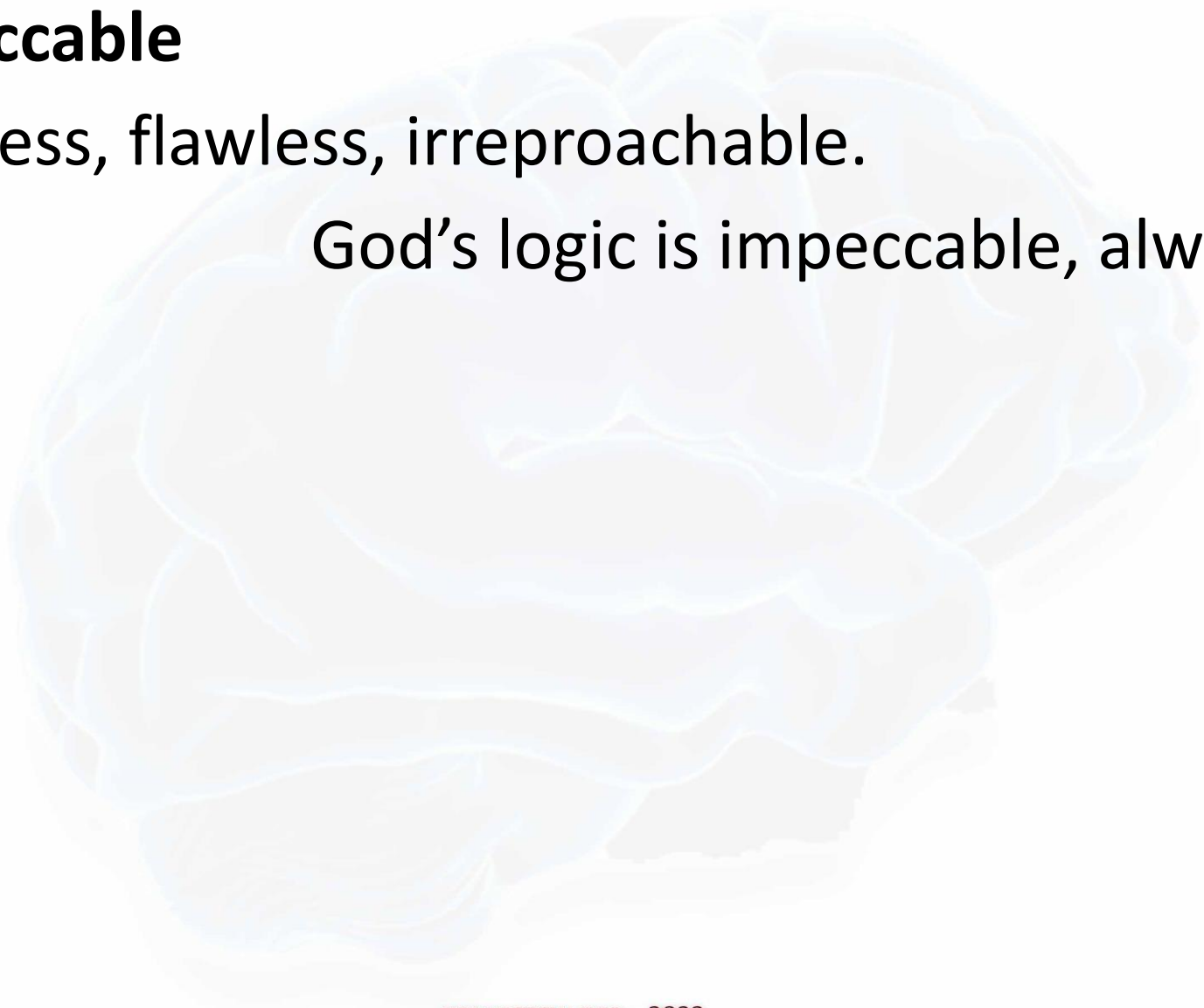




Impeccable

Faultless, flawless, irreproachable.

God's logic is impeccable, always.





Based on Isaiah 5:1-4

- My beloved had a vineyard on a rich and fertile hill.
- He plowed the land, cleared its stones, and planted it with the best vines.
- In the middle he built a watchtower and carved a winepress in the nearby rocks.
- Therefore, in harvest time the vineyard will bring forth sweet grapes.

But the **grapes that grew were bitter** ... judge between me and my vineyard. What more could I have done for my vineyard ... **why did my vineyard give me bitter grapes?**



Review of terms





Review of Terms

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).



Review of Terms

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

Review of Terms

Logic follows laws. The three basic laws are:

Law of Non-contradiction: a proposition P and its opposite $\text{Not } P$ cannot be true at the same time.

P can never equal $\text{Not } P$

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

If P is true, then $\text{Not } P$ must be false

Law of Identity: A thing is always equal to itself

If P is true, then P is always true.



Review of Terms

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).





Review of Terms

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





Enthymeme

An argument in which one of the premises or the conclusion is *not* explicitly stated.

Usually, this is because the unstated claim is obvious.

Enthymeme Example – unstated premise:

Ron is a human therefore Ron is mortal.

Unstated premise: All humans are mortal

All humans are mortal, Ron is a human,
therefore Ron is mortal.



Another enthymeme example

- The wages of sin are death
- Therefore, all men will die for their sin

Unstated premise: All men have sinned

'All men have sinned, the wages of sin are death, therefore, all men will die for their sin.'





Enthymeme Example – unstated conclusion:

The light is green.

Unstated conclusion: ‘Therefore, Go!’

Bonus: An unstated premise: *Go when light is green*, the light is green, therefore, Go!





- There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.
- The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds.
- The poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb...and it was unto him as a daughter.
- There came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock.
- He took the poor man's *[beloved]* lamb and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

Therefore, ...



Know how to identify enthymemes

- A human 'skeleton looks like an advanced' version of an ape skeleton.
- Therefore, humans evolved from apes.
-
- There are many religions.
- Therefore, Jesus is not the only Way.
-
- The child will have a very difficult life.
- Therefore, it is best to abort the child.





Know how to identify enthymemes

- A human 'skeleton looks like an advanced' version of an ape skeleton.
- Therefore, humans evolved from apes.



Know how to identify enthymemes

- If something 'looks like an advanced' version of 'something else', it most have evolved from that 'something else'.
- A human skeleton 'looks like an advanced' version of an ape skeleton.
 - Similarity in appearance can also indicate the same designer.
- ~~Therefore, humans evolved from apes.~~

Therefore, this argument does NOT prove humans evolved from apes.





Know how to identify enthymemes

- There are many religions.
- Therefore, Jesus is not the only Way.



Know how to identify enthymemes

- The more religions there are, the more 'right' options there are.
- There are many religions.
 - *It is possible that only one is Correct*
- ~~Therefore, Jesus is not the only Way.~~

Therefore, this argument does NOT disprove Jesus' claim to be the only Way.





Know how to identify enthymemes

- The child will have a very difficult life.
- Therefore, it is best to abort the child.



Know how to identify enthymemes

- Having no life at all is better than a difficult life.
- The child will have a very difficult life.
 - Many have survived very difficult circumstances only to rise above them and do great things for mankind.
- ~~Therefore, it is best to abort the child.~~

Therefore, this argument does NOT prove that abortion is best.



Know how to identify enthymemes

- God told Israel to select two goats once a year.
- God told Israel to have the High Priest sacrifice one and send the other out into the wilderness.
- Therefore, we must get the goats and do the stuff, even unto this day.



Know how to identify enthymemes

- We are not under the old covenant.
- Under the old covenant, God told Israel to select two goats once a year.
- Under the old covenant, God told Israel to have the High Priest sacrifice one and send the other out into the wilderness.
- ~~Therefore, we must get the goats and do the stuff, even unto this day.~~

Therefore, the goats are safe.





Based on Isaiah 5:1-4

- The grapes can choose to be bitter
- My beloved had a vineyard on a rich and fertile hill.
- He plowed the land, cleared its stones, and planted it with the best vines.
- In the middle he built a watchtower and carved a winepress in the nearby rocks.
- Therefore, in harvest time the vineyard *might* ~~will~~ bring forth sweet grapes.

Moral of the parable? Choose to be sweet not bitter!



Bad arguments abound. And it is far too easy to be bluffed into a false conclusion by a good presenter using a fallacious enthymeme, or some other logical fallacy. How many people have been intimidated into accepting a faulty conclusion embraced by a confident buffoon? We have a moral obligation to reason rationally both in our internal thinking and when attempting to persuade others. And that means examining arguments carefully and always in light of Scripture (Acts 17:11).



Jason Lisle, Introduction to Logic



Empiricism

The philosophy that knowledge is based solely on what can be confirmed with the senses.

Rationalism

The philosophy that knowledge is based on valid reasoning without any requirement that this be directly confirmed with the senses.





Empiricism is the philosophy that knowledge is based solely on what can be confirmed with the senses.

This view is aligned to the scientific method and the requirement that a hypothesis be tested with observation and measurement. The scientific method further specifies that knowledge is **probabilistic, falsifiable** and **subject to continuing challenge**.





Empiricism requires knowledge be...

...Probabilistic: probable, predictable and repeatable.

Assumption that gravity works today, and it will work tomorrow.

This also includes the idea that knowledge stays within the realm of what is highly probable.

Miracles, for example, fall outside this definition.

...and subject to continuing challenge: always ready to be tested and adapted if new evidence is presented.





Empiricism requires knowledge be...

...falsifiable:

A statement, hypothesis or theory is **falsifiable** if it can be contradicted by an observation. If such an observation is impossible to make with current technology, **falsifiability is not achieved.**





Empiricism

An **unfalsifiable** statement formulated by the philosopher Bertrand Russell states that there is a small teapot orbiting the Sun that is too small to be seen with telescopes.

Bertrand Russell used this as a thought experiment to show that the burden of proof lies with those who make **unfalsifiable** claims.





Rationalism is the view that reason is a valid source of knowledge even where this can't be confirmed with observation. This can be contrasted with empiricism that requires all knowledge to be based on observation such as measurement.





Rationalism accepts knowledge based on:

- **Innate knowledge** such as morals or aesthetics.
- **Innate concepts** such as 'three' or 'up'.
- **Abstractions** such as the concept of freedom or justice.
- **Human experience** such as emotion, intuition, imagination and faith.





$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = 1.$$





Is Faith illogical?

(Answer: no)



Empirical / Deductive reasoning: Can be known with 100% certainty

- 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.





Rational / Inductive reasoning: Can be known with a high degree of certainty

- The human body can withstand a limited amount of external force being applied before serious injury or death occurs.

As far as we know this applies to all humans.


- A fast-moving train exerts enough force to kill a human being.

As far as we know this applies to all trains.

- I am a human being.

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





Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

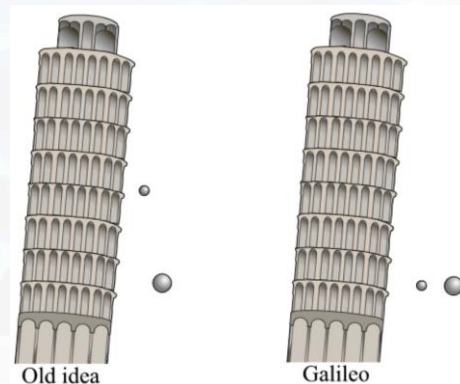
My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts, says the LORD. And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and **my thoughts higher than your thoughts.**



LOGO

Proverbs 16:25 There is **a way which seems right to a man**, but its end is the way of death.

Counter-intuitive principles such as loving your enemies, that Jesus is both God and man, that we should rejoice in being persecuted for Christ's sake.



Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is **deceitful** above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine **own understanding**.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.





1 Corinthians 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new.**

Romans 8:29

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.





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Falsifiable

A statement, hypothesis or theory is falsifiable if it can be contradicted by an observation.



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.





Homework

How would you respond to this argument?

- There is evil in the world.
- God either cannot or will not stop evil.

Therefore, God is not worthy to be worshipped.

Send responses to **ron@totw.org**



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