

LOGIC LESSON 3

We live in an age of irrationality (anti-Logos). This form of insanity is ubiquitous; it saturates government policies (cf., current “discourse” on gun rights), education system, culture, movies, commercials, views on marriage, and even viewpoints in Christian churches. We have a whole society that has no clue what logic is or just how important it is. It is not taught in public schools or many private schools. It is not even required in seminaries. As a matter of fact, most of courses today on logic are on the new propositional/mathematical/computer logic which only deals with propositions and never entities, instead of intentional logic which alone makes truth statements about reality as such. The result is that people follow their emotions—just like animals. The only difference is that they cannot escape the fact they as human beings they are constructed in such a way that they must go back to some kind of sense, which they do by rationalizing what their emotions have already determined.

The fact that people in general and the Christians in particular do not know even the basics of logic does not keep them from being dogmatic, however. While they think they are being logical in their dogmatism, it is their emotions even about the most important decisions in their lives which are running the show. Most are totally unequipped to even begin to discuss what is logically wrong with propositions/arguments of the kosmos or false doctrine. It is in light of all of this irrationality, I have decided to provide this basic course on logic.

We have noted that there are three acts of the mind in which each has its own mental entity: #1) simple apprehension which produces concepts/words; #2) judgment which produces judgments/propositions; and #3) reasoning which produces arguments. If you are going to make a good argument you must have integrity in each of these areas. Likewise, if you are going to attack any argument you must do so on at least one of these areas. Let’s review these three acts of the mind and their mental entities.

1. Simple apprehension :: Produces Concepts (what a thing is)
2. Judgment:: produces judgments (whether it is)
3. Reasoning: Produces Arguments (why it is).

1. Concepts give rise to Terms.
2. Judgments give rise to Propositions.
3. Arguments (mental relations between judgments) give rise to arguments (logical).

1. Terms are expressed as words.
2. Propositions are expressed as declarative sentences.
3. Arguments are expressed as paragraphs.

1. “Man”(concept from simple apprehension used as a term and expressed as a word)
2. “Socrates is a man” (judgment about a particular man, put into a proposition and expressed as a declarative sentence).
3. “All men are mortal, and Socrates is a man, Therefore Socrates is mortal.” (argument from relating judgments expressed as a paragraph relating propositions)

To build a sound argument

1. Be sure your terms are clear
2. Be sure your premises are true
3. Be sure your logic is valid

To build a counter-argument

1. Expose an unclear term.
2. Expose a false premise.
3. Expose an invalid argument (a conclusion that does not necessarily follow from the premises)

New concept: A proposition (2nd act of the mind) must always be a declarative sentence. Non-declarative sentences are not propositions. This means that interrogative sentences, imperative sentences, exclamatory sentences or performative sentences (e.g., “I dub thee knight”) cannot be used in logical syllogisms. They make no truth claim about reality as such.

Answers from quiz #2: Identify which of the following is T (term, act #1), P (proposition, act #2), or A (argument, act #3).

1. You won't stay up late tonight watching the UFC fights. (proposition)
2. You're a supergrace believer (proposition).
3. Everyone in America and in the rest of the world as well (term; not a complete sentence; no existential statement is made; no predicate)
4. You will pass this quiz because you understand the three acts of the mind (argument).

Quiz #3 – Identify the following as a term, proposition, argument or none of the above.

1. “Those who do not complain are never pitied” (JaneAusten)
2. “Abandon all hope, you who enter here” (Dante)
3. “Bah! said Scrooge, ‘Humbug!’” (Dickens)
4. Around the corner and behind the house and past the tree and under the ground
5. The mind with its ability for logic is a divine gift that is most like God, therefore we should use it for His glory in seeking truth as such.

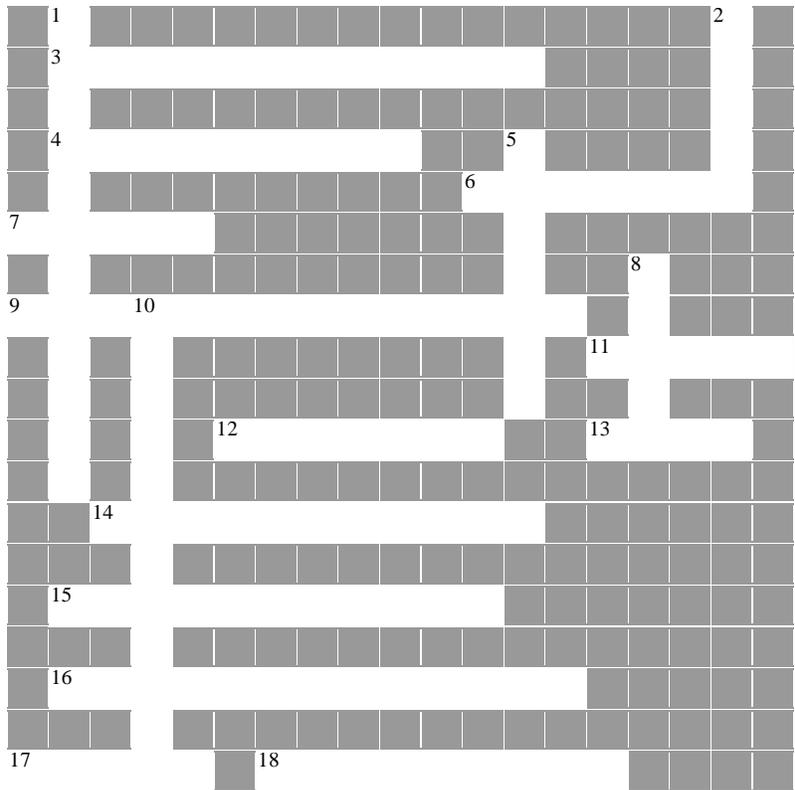
In the Logos,

Pastor Don

QUIZZES

ANSWERS TO Quiz #3 – Identify the following as a term, proposition, argument or none of the above.

1. “Those who do not complain are never pitied” (Jane Austen) = proposition
2. “Abandon all hope, you who enter here” (Dante) = none of the above
3. “Bah! said Scrooge, ‘Humbug!’” (Dickens) = none of the above
4. Around the corner and behind the house and past the tree and under the ground = term
5. The mind with its ability for logic is a divine gift that is most like God, therefore we should use it for His glory in seeking truth as such = argument



ACROSS

DOWN

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| <p>3. Judgments give rise to ____</p> <p>4. Third act of the mind.</p> <p>6. To build a counter-argument, expose an ____ argument.</p> <p>7. There are ____ acts of the mind</p> <p>9. They are not propositions</p> <p>11. Concepts give rise to ____</p> <p>12. Second act of the mind</p> <p>13. Be sure you premises are _____</p> <p>14. They are not propositions</p> <p>15. Classical logic in tradition of Aristotle</p> <p>16. New symbolic type of logic good for computers</p> <p>17. To build a counter-argument, expose a ____ premise</p> <p>18. Arguments give rise to ____</p> | <p>1. First act of the mind.</p> <p>2. Be sure your logic is ____</p> <p>5. To build counter-argument, expose an ____ term</p> <p>8. Be sure your terms are _____</p> <p>10. They are not propositions</p> |
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ANSWERS TO PUZZLE



ACROSS

3. Judgments give rise to ____
4. Third act of the mind.
6. To build a counter-argument, expose an ____ argument.
7. There are ____ acts of the mind
9. They are not propositions
11. Concepts give rise to ____
12. Second act of the mind
13. Be sure you premises are ____
14. They are not propositions
15. Classical logic in tradition of Aristotle
16. New symbolic type of logic good for computers
17. To build a counter-argument, expose a ____ premise
18. Arguments give rise to ____

DOWN

1. First act of the mind.
2. Be sure your logic is ____
5. To build counter-argument, expose an ____ term
8. Be sure your terms are ____
10. They are not propositions