

LOGIC – Lesson 8: Concepts, words, terms

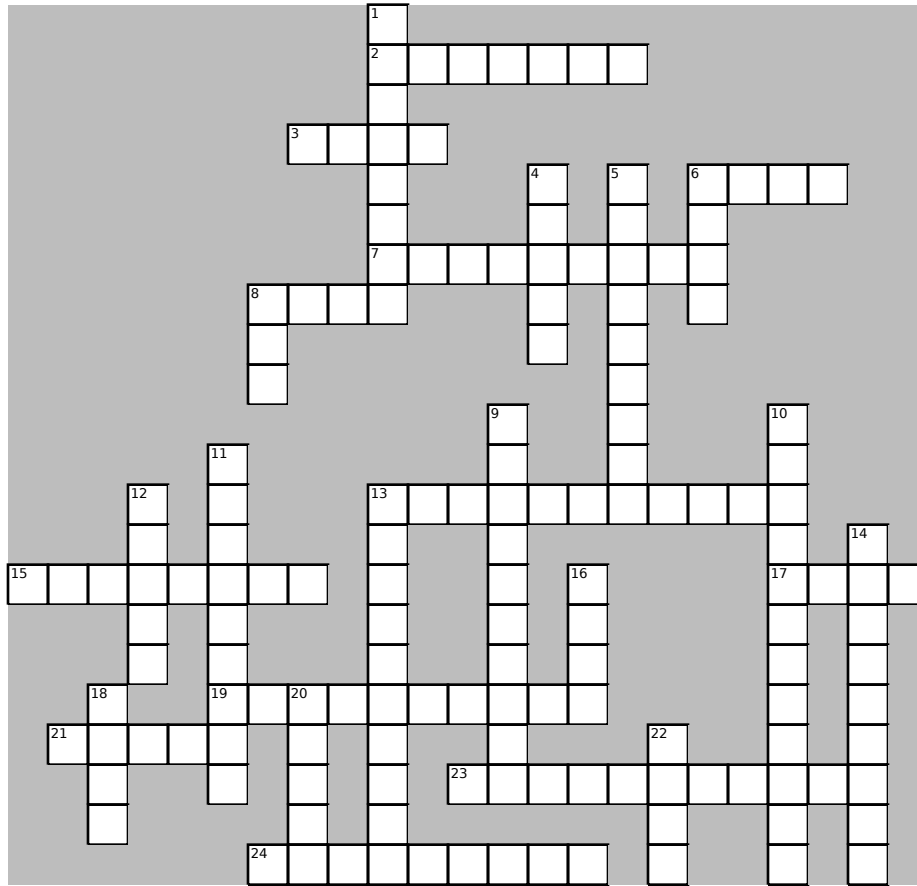
1. The most common error in logic is always in the area ambiguity. Understanding concepts, words, and terms enables one to disambiguate, and thus move closer to reality as such.
2. There are three basic human questions in dealing with reality (philosophical realism). We see this in all human beings.
 - a. What is it? First act of the mind; the essence of a thing grasped by a concept.
 - b. Is it? Second act of the mind; the existential question, does it exist? (cf. horse vs. unicorn).
 - c. What is it? Third act of the mind; moving from one judgment to another; an argument.
3. The first act of the mind: Simple apprehension.
 - a. The simple apprehension is the *concept* in our minds.
 - b. This is not a copy of something in the world. This is reality.
 - c. We do not merely understand *concepts*, we understand *reality* by means of concepts. This avoids the egocentric predicament that plagues modern philosophy.
 - d. Only philosophical realism teaches that we actually see reality as such. This is the biblical position; it takes for granted that we are really in touch with the world.
4. Features of concepts.
 - a. Concepts are immaterial. The concept of an apple has no weight or extension; it does not take up space and does not have mass or shape.
 - b. By the concept “apple” in the mind we know the real apple in the world, and we communicate it with others through the word “apple.”
 - c. Its *meaning* is the real apple, its *being* is immaterial.
 - d. By abstraction we “draw out” the nature of the thing and leave behind inessential particulars (like color and weight).
 - e. I know that this thing is a tree, and my concept of “Treeness” leaves behind this particular shade of green in the leaves or texture of bark. The concept of “tree” is abstract.
 - f. Universal: the literal meaning of “universal” is “one with respect to many.” This means that a concept, while remaining one is true of many things.

- g. A single copy can apply to many things. “Human being” can be applied to 6 billion + individuals. “E. coli” can be applied to trillions, but the concept remains one.
5. Concepts pick out essential properties.
- a. A triangle has to have three sides.
 - b. A human has to have rationality.
 - c. An animals has to have a body.
6. Concepts are unchanging. We come to understand more of a thing’s nature over time (induction), so error can arise when we think that something belongs to a thing’s essence when it does not. E.g., I may think that it belongs to the nature of water to boil at 100 degrees C. However, I discover when I go to the mountains that it boils at 90 degrees C. Has the nature of water changed? No. Water boils as 100 degrees C *at sea level*. This temperature varies with altitude. If you have a clear liquid at sea level that does not boil at 100 degrees C, then it is not water.
7. Differentiating between concepts, words, and terms.
- a. Concept exists in the individual’s mind. This is the concept of “apple” in my mind.
 - b. Word is the linguistic expression of a term and concept.
 - c. Term is the basic unit of meaning, it allows the same concepts to be translated into different words. The term is between the concept (inner word) and word (linguistic expression). It is the basic unit of meaning that is shared by many apart from its linguistic expression or inner personal concept.

In ‘Ehyeh,

Pastor Don

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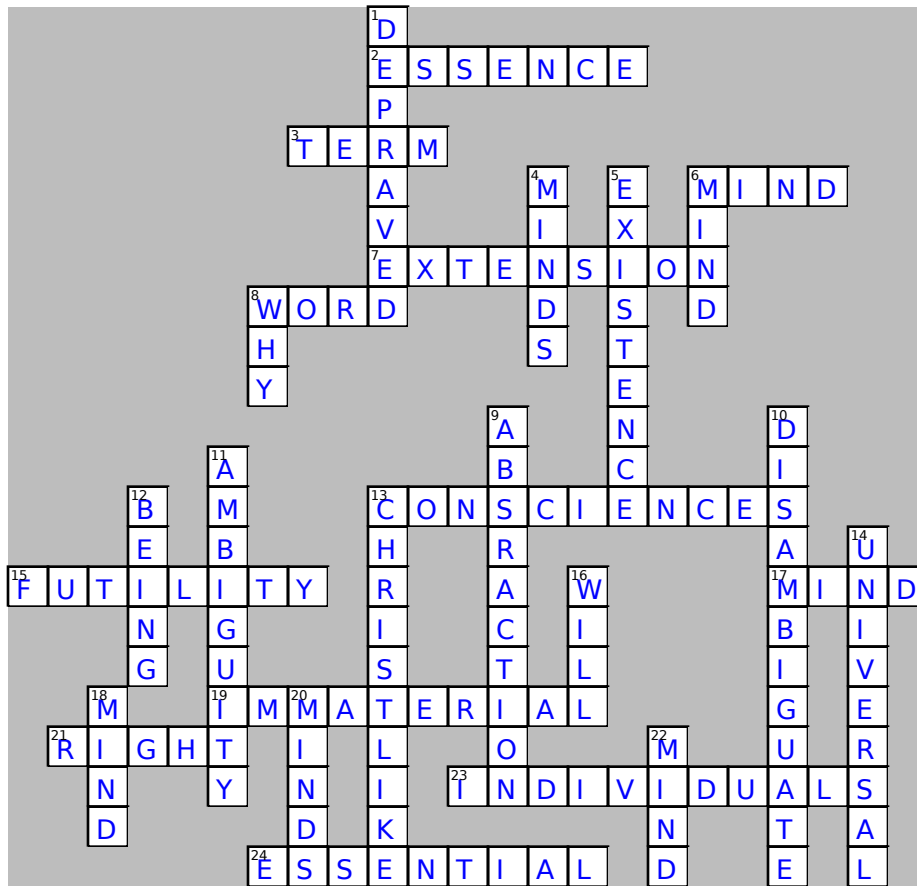
Across

- 2 The first act of the mind deals with the ___ of a thing.
- 3 A ___ is the basic unit of meaning.
- 6 It is the ___ that enables us to recall Bible doctrine (2 Pet. 1:15).
- 7 The concept of an apple has no weight or ___.
- 8 A ___ is a linguistic expression of a term.
- 13 False teachers have defiled minds and ___ (Titus 1:15)
- 15 To live like an unbeliever is to live in the ___ of the mind (Eph. 4:17)
- 17 A concept exists in the individual's ___
- 19 Concepts are ___.
- 21 After Christ casts demons out of a possessed man, the man is said to return to his ___ mind.
- 23 One concept can apply to 6+ billion ___.
- 24 Concepts pick out ___ properties.

Down

- 1 Rejection of God leads to a ___ mind (Rom. 1:28).
- 4 False teachers have depraved ___ (1 Tim. 6:5)
- 5 The second act of the mind deals with its ___.
- 6 What is God said to have in Romans 11:34?
- 8 The third act of the mind deals with ___.
- 9 By ___ we draw out the nature of a thing.
- 10 Understanding concepts, terms, and words helps one do what?
- 11 The most common error in logic is due to what?
- 12 The ___ of an apple is immaterial.
- 13 What kind of mind should we have according to 1 Cor. 2:16?
- 14 What is "one with respect to many"?
- 16 It is in renewing of the mind that the believer can understand and see the beauty of the ___ of God for his life (Rom. 12:2)
- 18 It is the ___ of the believer that struggles with the irrational old sin nature (Rom. 7:25).
- 20 In Matt. 22:37, Christ commanded us to love God with all of our ___.
- 22 In Matt. 16:23, Christ called Peter "Satan" because he was setting his ___ on the things of man (human viewpoint).

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