

LOGIC – Lesson 10: Univocal, Equivocal, Analogical Terms

1. A “term” in logic is the subject or the predicate of a proposition (a declarative sentence).
2. Terms are either clear or unclear. Terms cannot be either true or false. E.g., “mortal” is neither true nor false. The *proposition* “All men are mortal” is true, and the proposition “Some men are not mortal” is false.
3. Note three major ways terms are used.
 - a. Univocally: one meaning. This is when a term means the same thing in more than one statement, e.g. “tasty” breakfast and “tasty” desert. “Tasty” has the same meaning in both statements.
 - b. Equivocally: two meanings. This is when there are two, unrelated meanings, e.g. tree “bark” and a dog’s “bark.” We have same term but two different meanings.
 - c. Analogically: partly the same and partly different.
 - Note how “good” is used analogically in the two statements: living in fellowship with God is “good,” and eating healthy food is “good.” Both instances mean ‘beneficial,’ but they related to different objects.
 - Living in fellowship with God is a spiritual “good” and eating healthy food is a “good” of physical health. Or with analogical use of terms, we can even say that eating chocolate covered donuts is “good,” but this would be a “good” of pleasure—not of health or spiritual.
 - One must understand the analogical use of “good” to understand the Word of God. The original languages do not help here. The same Greek word *agathos* in the Bible is used for goodness of man (Matt. 5:45), gifts (Matt.7:11), trees (Matt. 7:17), conscience (Acts 23:1), the Mosaic Law (Rom. 7:13), the will of God (Rom. 12:2), and even as a respectful address to an unbeliever in authority (Acts 23:26).

4. Example of a syllogism that is false because the term is used in more than one way. In syllogisms terms must be univocal; they cannot change meaning in the argument.
 - a. The syllogism:

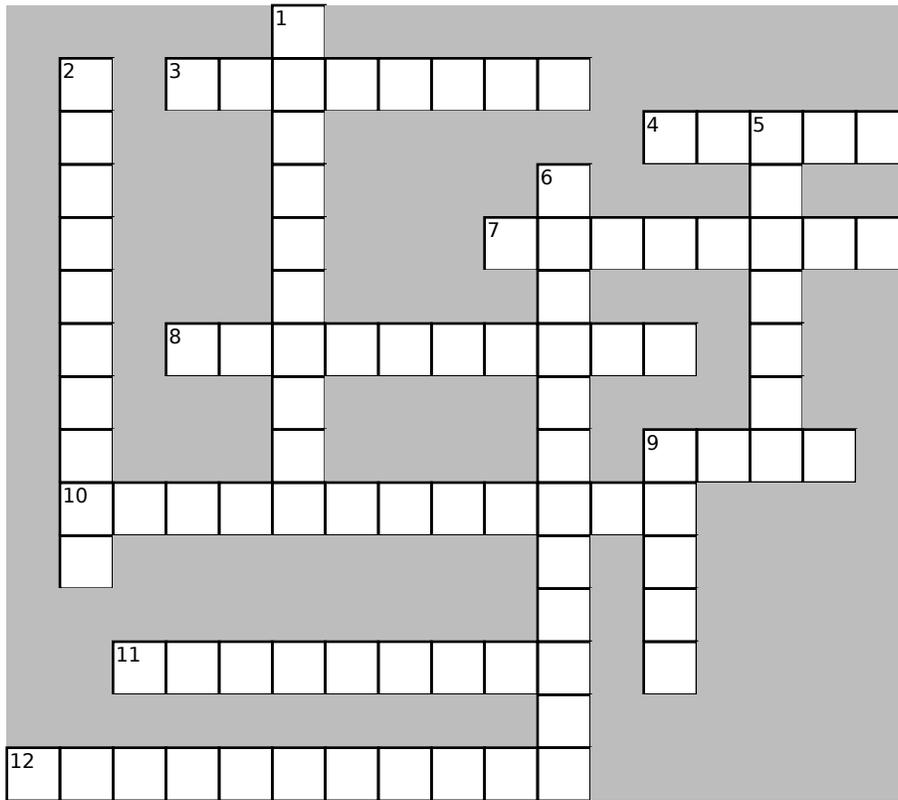
“All power tends to corrupt” (Lord Acton)
“Knowledge is power” (Francis Bacon)
Therefore, knowledge tends to corrupt.
 - b. Intuitively we know that the conclusion is false, but the logic seems to be valid and the premises seem to be true.
 - c. The key to spotting the error is in term “power.” When Lord Acton said that “all power tends to “corrupt”, he meant *political* power, whereas when Francis Bacon said that “knowledge is power,” he meant not political power but intellectual power, especially scientific knowledge that led to technological power over the forces of nature.
 - d. A syllogism can only have three terms. When a term has more than one meaning then there are four terms. This fallacy is called “Fallacy of Ambiguous Middle.” More on this later.
 - e. Failure to have clear, univocal meaning of terms is the most prevalent logical error made throughout society and in our conversations. Often, the speaker has one meaning in mind while the listener has a different meaning. This is most conspicuous when evolutionists use the term “evolution” which they never define. As long as they don’t have to define it, they can use it to conceal all kinds of fallacies.
 - f. We must always work to clarify our terms. It is very difficult endeavor! With more clarity, there would be less confusion and less strife. I would be willing to bet that most disagreements among loved ones is due to each person having a different understanding of key terms.
5. Spiritual application of logic and intellective appetites: In yesterday’s Bible class I touched on the intellective and sensitive appetites of our souls. These two powers in us are related to our first and second order wills. Our intellective appetite usually deals more with our second order will. Our sensitive appetites are more geared to our first order wills which are more related to our five senses. Illustration: when available people of the opposite sex meet and are attracted to each other, they are generally attracted by sensible appetite: they like what they see. This generally progresses through 4 emotional/movement stages at the physical level in first order will: 1) wanting to be near the person, 2) jealous of others who might steal the affection of the person one is interested in, 3) desire to touch, hold hands, kiss, etc.; and 4) desire for sex. These are all operating on the sensible appetite level. However, there is another level of intellectual appetites that is to govern the person. If the higher level is not filled with divine norms and standards, or not developed ethically, morally, or spiritually and logically, the lower level of appetites are going to run the person’s life and get him in trouble really quick.

6. Development of intellectual capacities and appetites is key to controlling the sensible appetites. Apart from their development, the sensible appetites will end up dragging down the upper level intellectual appetites and corrupt the conscience.
7. Rejection of logic destroys upper level intellectual capacities. Not only will the believer not really understand Truth as such, he will live in emotional revolt. It is truth and truth alone that frees us. Anti-intellectualism not only destroys capacity to understand truth, it results in the believer being so sensate that they cannot stay in fellowship for most of any given day. They may talk about how doctrine or truth frees them, but they are certainly not living free lives if they live out of fellowship most of the time. Again, anti-intellectualism destroys capacity to understand Truth and live freely. What a horribly high price to pay just for being intellectually lazy about Christ and His wonderful Word.

In 'Ehyeh,

Pastor Don

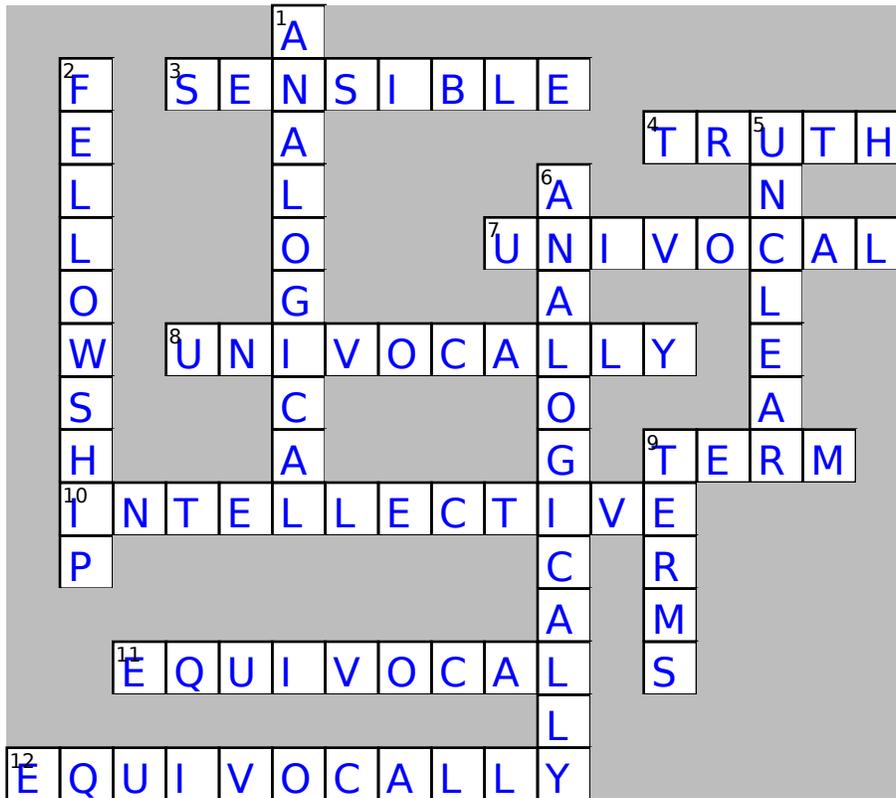
Logic Lesson 10



- Across
- 3 Development of intellectual capacities is key to controlling ___ appetites.
 - 4 Rejection of logic destroys intellectual capacities for ___.
 - 7 When a term has the same meaning.
 - 8 How is "two" used in: "Two" men paid "two" dollars for "two" chairs.
 - 9 In logic it is the subject or predicate of a proposition.
 - 10 Sensible appetites if not governed will drag down ___ appetites.
 - 11 When a term has two meanings.
 - 12 How is the "litter" used in: a "litter" of pups in a pile of "litter"

- Down
- 1 When a term is partly the same and partly different.
 - 2 In anti-intellectualism, the believer cannot stay in ___ very long.
 - 5 Terms are either clear or ___.
 - 6 How is "digest" used in: I am going to "digest" this lesson after I "digest" my lunch
 - 9 They cannot be true or false.

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