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http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html

LOGIC – Lesson 11: Terms

Due to the neglect and rejection of logic, Christians and Christianity are taking huge *"hits"* throughout this country and the world in the public square. All one has to do to see this ugly tragedy is a Google search on "atheism" or "the irrationality of Christians or Christianity." It is not a pretty sight, and our kids are becoming more and more exposed to it by the hour. So what do we do? Be anti-intellectual and ignore it? How about just giving our children more doctrine to handle it? I don't care how much Bible doctrine one has, without logic Christians will continue to be decimated in the public square, which will cause them to withdraw like frightened sheep— unlike the Apostle Paul and the Lord Jesus Christ in the face of opposition to God's Truth.

Without logic, the Christian does not even have the ability to see, let alone point out, all the logical fallacies made by these atheists—and they are ubiquitous. However, with logic not only will the believer understand what he believes (and why it cannot be otherwise); he will be able to point out all the logical fallacies made by atheists. Logic is not some subjective feeling that sounds rational *to you*. Logic has objective rules. It is just a matter of knowing the rules. By the time you finish this logic course, you will be able to construct a sound syllogism and check any and all syllogisms for validity and soundness. You will be able to put any statement in logical form and check it objectively. Right now, we are just going through some basics. After we develop our skills in forming and checking syllogisms, we will go to the Internet world and see just how fallacious the atheistic arguments and charges are and point them out to the atheists, most of whom never had a logic class, otherwise they would not be making these egregious errors. What a valuable skill for a believer to possess! There is no reason for any Christian to be or look stupid when it comes to logic or the Logos.

Two key concepts regarding terms that are critical to understand in logic are universal and particular terms. They determine the validity of any argument. There are countless Illicit Majors and Illicit Minors made both by atheists and Christians due to failure to grasp this—but it will be a while before we get to syllogisms and note them. For now, let's just think about these basic concepts on how terms can be used—the first two are the most important:

1. Universal terms: every, each, no, none.

2. Particular terms: some, not all, a few, sometimes.

3. Singular terms: one, "Socrates," "this car." No need to be overly concerned about this now.

Exercise: Tell whether the subject of each of the following propositions in universal, particular, or singular.

1. Only a few planes came back.
2. The whole air force failed.
3. Several planes crashed.
4. The pilot brought no parachute.
5. Nobody could have survived.
6. Every plane with two engines had trouble.
7. Without exception everyone experienced multiple troubles.
8. Some pilots did not pass any of their tests at all.
9. None of those planes was in the air for the last two weeks.

The answers are on the next page.

ANSWERS:

1. Only a <u>few planes </u>came back = Particular.
2. The <u>whole air force</u> failed = Universal
3. <u>Several planes</u> crashed = Particular.
4. <u>The pilot</u> brought no parachute = Singular.
5. <u>Nobody</u> could have survived = Universal.
6. <u>Every plane</u> with two engines had trouble = Universal.
7. <u>Without exception everyone</u> experienced multiple troubles = Universal.
8. <u>Some pilots</u> did not pass any of their tests at all = Particular
9. <u>None</u> of those planes was in the air for the last two weeks = Universal.

In 'Ehyeh,

Pastor Don