

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove
Faith Bible Church
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

LOGIC – Lesson 22
Modus Ponens – Worshipping God with all of our Intellective Natures

I have two objectives in mind in these logic lessons. The first one is to increase believers' intellection/logical skills by teaching them four basic areas of logic: modus ponens, modus tollens, putting propositions into logical forms, and constructing and checking syllogisms. This will be the last lesson on modus ponens.

The second objective is to give believers a greater ability to love God (as well as others) with all of their minds. To love God and others requires thinking more clearly about God, His ways, and human beings. This is my passion and is what drives me to push us through the various philosophical principles. My plea to all believers is to embrace serious thinking as a means of loving God and people. My plea is for believers to see thinking as a necessary, God-ordained means of knowing Him. Thinking is one of the most important ways of worshipping God. The ultimate goal of life is that God be displayed as glorious because of all that He is ('Ehyeh/Esse) and all that He has made (esses) and done—especially, the marvelous matchless grace He has shown in the work of Jesus Christ. The greatest goal for any believer is the surpassing worth of *knowing* Jesus Christ—"the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord," Philip. 3:8.

The chief reason God has given us intellective natures is that we might seek out and find all the reasons that exist for treasuring Him *in* all things and *above* all things. He created the world so that *through* it and *above* it, we might treasure Him. The more we see 'Ehyeh and His surpassing knowledge and wisdom and power and beauty (True/Good/Beautiful) and love and goodness, the more we will treasure Him. The study of Him as 'Ehyeh has certainly made that possible. I am encouraged by many believers of Faith Bible Church who have testified to me how understanding 'Ehyeh/Esse has totally changed the way they view reality (as it moved them out of their obscure forms of Platonism). *Understanding* 'Ehyeh, enables one to worship God more fully with the mind.

At Faith Bible Church, we have established the foundation of reality in Esse-esse (Being-being) and are now studying the nature of human beings, especially the intellective and emotional natures. This is a real eye-opener as believers go from not really knowing much about their intellective and emotional natures to seeing the richness of the God-given intellective and emotional capacities to love and worship God.

Of course, for post-modern Christians logic is pretty much irrelevant—a waste of time and energy. This is lamentable. But on some level, I understand it. If a believer is "happy" just going to church where the "expert" can just tell him what to believe about God and what to do, and do, and do, then learning these logic skills probably is a waste of time. For the believer who really does not care about Truth as such and is only interested in God fixing this or that problem, for the believer who is always a victim who depends upon the expert pastor for more techniques, knowing logic is useless. I can see where the time and effort it takes to develop clear thinking

required for clarity in God would be too much trouble for such a believer. Why go through the trouble when you can just trust someone else's mind and beliefs? For the believer who is OK with the pastor doing his thinking about God and life for him, why in the world would he need logic in his thinking about God or life? He can just trust his favorite pastor. Of course, the downside is that such a believer will never be able to move into personal apodictic certainty about core truths about God or the things of God. His faith will always rest in the pastor. This is not only dangerous, it also hinders him in worship of God that only comes about when a believer sees the truth from his own thinking. He will never be able to enter into deep worship and glorification of God with his mind—I doubt that he will ever understand what “glorify” even means. Without development of thinking skills, the believer lives off of the minds of others which will cause him to live out his life as a victim who always needs another “faith-fix” to handle yet another problem. Such a person will never be able to live in the wow of ‘Ehyeh and worship Him fully with the mind. Such a person will also have very limited capacity to love fellow human beings. Again, the believer who lives without a personal metaphysical understanding of God or man is very limited in ability to love and worship God with his mind.

Let's review the straightforward logic of modus ponens: “if a p causes q, then if you have a p then you will have a q.” This is straightforward and one of the most basic and intuitive forms of logic that we use and in some cases misuse all of the time (like when we try to reverse it by making $p > q$ into $q > p$). Many pastors regularly violate this logic by affirming the consequent (q) to affirm the antecedent (p). This is inexcusable even if they are not aware of how they are violating God's Word. Below I have included a few more exercises than usual since this is the last lesson of modus ponens.

Exercises on modus ponens.

1. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic for “If John studies hard (p), then he will get a good grade (q)”

p=if John studies hard
q=he will get a good grade

$p > q$
p
Therefore q. VALID.

2. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If John studies hard (p), then he will get a good grade (q)”

3. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If Jesus rose from the dead (p), then He is God's Son (q).

4. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If Jesus rose from the dead (p), then He is God’s Son (q).

5. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If it is raining (p), Chamberlain carries an umbrella (q).

6. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If it is raining (p), Chamberlain carries an umbrella (q).

7. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If the carburetor fails, the engine dies.

8. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If the carburetor fails, the engine dies.”

Answers to 2-8

2. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If John studies hard (p), then he will get a good grade (q)”

p=if John studies hard
q=he will get a good grade

p>q

q

Therefore p. **INVALID**. Just because John got a good grade does not mean that he studied hard. Maybe he is a genius and would get a good grade if he studied “medium.” Maybe the teacher recognized John’s genius and that he understood the material better than she did and so gave him a good grade.

3. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If Jesus rose from the dead (p), then He is God’s Son (q).

p=if Jesus rose from the dead
q=then He is God’s Son

$p \rightarrow q$

p

Therefore q. **VALID.**

4. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If Jesus rose from the dead (p), then He is God’s Son (q).

p=if Jesus rose from the dead
q=then He is God’s Son

$p \rightarrow q$

q

Therefore p. **INVALID.** While we know that Jesus is God’s Son, one cannot affirm the antecedent (p) by affirming the consequent (q): $p \rightarrow q$ does not equal $q \rightarrow p$. Christ’s being raised from the dead, did not make Him God’s Son. He was the Son for all of eternity. He is called God’s Son before He even died (John 3:16) and when He died (Rom. 8:32)—before the resurrection occurred.

5. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If it is raining (p), Chamberlain carries an umbrella (q).

p=if it is raining
q=Chamberlain carries an umbrella

$p \rightarrow q$

p

Therefore q. **VALID.**

6. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If it is raining (p), Chamberlain carries an umbrella (q).

p=if it is raining
q=Chamberlain carries an umbrella

p>q

q

Therefore p. INVALID. Chamberlain was known to carry an umbrella even when it was not raining. He was known by some as the umbrella man.

7. Construct valid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If the carburetor fails, the engine dies.

p=if the carburetor fails
q=the engine dies

p>q

p

Therefore q. VALID.

8. Construct invalid modus ponens using symbolic logic on “If the carburetor fails, the engine dies.”

p=if the carburetor fails
q=the engine dies

p>q

q

Therefore p. INVALID. There are a thousand other reasons for the car dying. Maybe it ran out of gas. While the carburetor failing would certainly cause the car to die, there are other causes that could have made the car die. There are plenty of other ps that could bring about the q.

Logic Matters—because loving God with all of our minds matters!

Advancing in the LOGOS,

Pastor Don