

INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Absolute Truth

This concept can be agonizingly hard for some intelligent, willing people. It is hardly present in today's schools and society. Relative truth is what is widely espoused today, but that can logically be shown to be false rather quickly.

What's right for you is different than what's right for me, and I happen to believe that I can steal from you (kill you, slander you, etc.) then that's OK.

Everyone (even other civilizations) has an innate sense of fairness. Kids love to claim this one. Where did this innate sense of absolute truth come from? Absolutes exist in many forms: physical, logical, moral, etc. and some are easy to demonstrate which opens the door for the more difficult truths.

Tolerance is a great example of relative truth. When someone says, "I'm not very tolerant," they are usually expressing their intolerance of someone else's intolerance. This can be fun to expose but very easily gets argumentative.

Logic

Unless you studied philosophy, you probably have not thought much about logic in a while. I highly recommend J.P. Moreland's *Love Your God With All Your Mind*. It will stretch your brain (painfully at times), but you will walk away thinking much more logically about the world and truths around us. There is so much bad logic around today that unless you know what's correct you can easily fall prey to it.

There are no absolute truths. - self-refuting statement.

You exercised blind faith if you ate in a restaurant today, believing something doesn't make it true; refusing to believe it doesn't make it false, - Paul Little.

One of the greatest dangers facing us is anti-intellectualism. The mind is not cared for enough and the thought of a reasoned-thinking Christian seems an oxymoron today. Reasoned thinking (and science in general) originated with Christians. It has been taken away from us, or rather, we have let it be taken away. In the last two centuries, as apologetics has waned and we couldn't answer the hard ones, we retreated to faith as the basis of Christianity. Scientism has become an alternate religion for the reasoning thinkers of today.

Positive vs. negative apologetics

Positive (offensive) apologetics shows that there is good reason to believe Christianity is true. Negative, or defensive, apologetics demonstrates that there is no good reason to believe that it is false.

Truths:

Obvious

Truths we can know

Truths we can't know (but believe based on the Bible)

We can know Christianity to be true, but how do you show it to be true?

Once you become a Christian you have the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. How do you demonstrate the truth to non-believers?

Key Points:

Don't set out to prove it all when you don't have to. Most people have many questions, but only a few (or one) is keeping them from salvation. Answer that critical one and let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest (you know what I mean). You will also run into situations where you can't answer every question. Jesus can. Be honest and tell them that you don't know the answer to that question and that you will get back to them. Just about every answer is contained in the books referenced.

Systematic Consistency

This basically refers to walking your talk. If a vegetarian animal rights activist wears leather shoes what does that say about their beliefs? Most non-believers are not systematically consistent. They will apply relative truth to some situations in their lives and absolute to others. Sometimes the exact same truth! Absolute truth usually comes into play when they have been wronged in some manner.

It is also sad to say that some Christians are not systematically consistent either. If we are to be effective for Christ we must live our lives on a daily basis according to God's word. Every thought must be taken captive for the glory of God.

Common misperceptions

Love the Lord your God with all your mind+

We are commanded by Jesus to Love God with all our minds, not with simple blind faith that children have. Not to simply attend church and tithe, but to grow our minds in Christ, to strengthen them as He matures us into apologetic warriors for the Faith.

That's what He intended when He added "with all your mind" to the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, the Jewish confession of faith written by Moses) in his last days in Jerusalem.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30 (see Deuteronomy 6:5)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is (Romans 12:2)

Renewing your mind:

Do you believe in UFOs?

Do you believe in evolution?