

## Logic

### I. Introduction

A. Definition: The study of sound reasoning

B. Source: God's nature

- i. Logic is logic because God is who He is. (Is. 1:18)
- ii. God's creation is designed in such a way that the rules of logic hold true.
- iii. We have the capacity/desire/obligation to be logical because of Gen. 1:27.

C. Fundamentals

- i. Law of Noncontradiction: A cannot be A and  $\sim$ A at the same time and in the same respect. (Matt. 5:37)
- ii. Law of Cause/Effect: Every action has a consequence or result.
- iii. Contradiction, Paradox, Mystery
  - a) Contradiction: A true inconsistency
  - b) Paradox: An apparent contradiction which can be resolved upon closer study (Matt. 11:39)
  - c) Mystery: Something we do not understand, even after closer study.

### II. Use/Limitations of Logic

A. Use: A tool to counter Satan's deceptions (Eph. 5:6)

- i. Cut through excuses of resisters.
- ii. Put to rest doubts of people genuinely struggling with questions.

B. Limitations: Logic is not sufficient to dispel Satan's deceptions

- i. All means must be blessed by the Holy Spirit's work in the heart. (2 Cor. 4:3-6)
- ii. The Word of God is the primary means for countering Satan's deception. (2 Tim. 3:13-17)
- iii. God may choose to use other means, even when logic seems like the right tool.

### III. Arguments

A. Basics

- i. Valid Argument: True facts/premises which necessarily lead to a true conclusion
- ii. Invalid argument (also called a fallacy)
  - a) Poor reasoning
  - b) False premise(s)

B. Fallacies of Presumption: Invalid arguments which result from assumptions that are not true

- i. Hasty Generalization: Taking one or a few cases and inappropriately applying them to

- all cases, without regard for distinctions
- ii. Either/Or Fallacy: Giving only two options, when in fact there are more
- iii. Begging the Question: Assuming what you need to prove
- iv. False Analogy: An analogy which is not similar enough to the reality at the point you want to explain
- v. False Cause: Assuming that because something happened after another event, it was caused by the earlier event
- vi. Slippery Slope: Extrapolating without acknowledging differences in cases
- C. Fallacies of Ambiguity: Invalid arguments which result from expressions that can be understood in multiple senses
  - i. Equivocation: Using a term two different ways in the same argument, without differentiating between the senses.
- D. Fallacies of Relevance: Invalid arguments which result from the introduction of irrelevant elements
  - i. Straw Man Fallacy: Misrepresenting an opponent's view in order to defeat it more easily
  - ii. Ad Hominem, "Against the man": Attacking the opponent rather than the opponent's argument
  - iii. Circumstantial evidence: Pointing to the motives or reasons why your opponent's view is expedient/convenient, rather than dealing with the opponent's argument
  - iv. Tu Quoque, "you also": Pointing to the opponent's inconsistent behavior, rather than dealing with the opponent's argument.
  - v. Appeal to Illegitimate Authority: Appealing to an illegitimate authority to back up a statement, rather than providing valid support for that conclusion

#### IV. Conclusion

- A. Notes on practice of logic in apologetics.
- B. A Call to Wisdom and Love (Matt. 10:16; 1 Cor. 1:17 – 2:16)

#### V. Resources

*With Good Reason: An Introduction to Informal Fallacies*, Fourth Edition – S. Morris Engel  
*The Fallacy Detective* – Nathaniel Bluedorn & Hans Bluedorn

Bahnsen/Stein Debate on the Existence of God

“Gordon Stein (Atheist)[sic] vs Dr Greg Bahnsen (Jesus follower)”

<https://youtu.be/anGAazNCfdY>

*Introductory Logic: The Fundamentals of Thinking Well* – James B. Nance & Douglas Wilson