

# Biblical Logic

---

**INTRODUCTION:** Insights into Joel McDurmon's book titled Biblical Logic in theory and practice.

**Purpose:** To elevate critical thinking to the seriousness it deserves.

**Opening statement:** Most Christians would rather die than think-in fact they do. Failing to think christianly, evangelicals have been forced into the role of cultural imitators and adapters rather than originators. In biblical terms, it is to be worldly and conformist, not decisively Christian.

**Problem:** World view fallacies/Logical fallacies are destroying us.

**Fallacy-to deceive, trick, dupe, cheat, disappoint.** Many variants and uses exist, all with meanings related to failure, deception, or unfaithfulness. Fallacies, according to this understanding, represent the many ways in which people can deceive or create non-truth.

**Reasons why critical thinking is necessary:**

1. The nature of fallacies: they can strongly persuade those who have the slightest motivation not to think critically and thoroughly.
2. A false assumption can be combined with an unassailable argument, which then proves the truth of what is false.
3. There are many things which are not in reality what they appear to be, and that both in the natural and moral world.
4. Generally speaking error teaches by persuading. (Sophist) A very successful well trained highly educated liar, who can take any side of a argument and win.
5. Every system of thought begins with some ultimate principle. If it does not begin with God, it will begin with some dimension of creation.
6. Racist, sexist, homophobe, anti-Semite; these are often merely incitements to stupefaction.
7. There is no tension between the intellectual exploration of the Christian faith and its practical outworking in everyday life. The problem is intellect is collapsing because it is hated, and hated because it is envied as a sign of superiority.
8. The habit of calm and serious thinking makes the real difference between one man and another.
9. We are to love our enemies, but we must love them enough to utterly destroy the lies they believe, so that they may be born again. ( Destroying falsehood, proclaiming truth, and defending truth)
10. Radicalism's greatest weapons are human vice and human ignorance.

**What is Biblical Logic?** The term biblical logic is defined by the author as the detailed study of methods to think and communicate faithfully within God's world-order, as well as discerning and refuting the myriads of ways in which man attempts to skirt the truth. This is true in every area of life. Simply put logic is the systematic study and practice of discerning and telling the truth. Added to the context of the biblical theme of godly wisdom and judgment, logic becomes much more than simple truth-telling; it

becomes clear that logical thinking to meet the biblical standard, must adopt the larger scope of a consistently biblical worldview. Logic becomes a way of thinking that reflects biblical law, biblical purposes, biblical covenant life, and biblical theology. When the bible speaks of wisdom and judgment it includes all of these things. Thus, only logic and reasoning that remain faithful to the bible properly deserve the label "critical thinking," because only reasoning that begins with God constitutes good judgment.

# Notes for biblical logic

---

1. On point one I would argue the great motivation not to think is the religion of humanity (humanism). Humanism thrives on sentimentality: it stresses feeling rather than thought: that is what makes sentimentality so vicious. People can get good feelings from almost anything. Sentimentality destroys truth. Sentimentality tends to justify whatever is felt to be right. It recognizes that truth is often hard, and therefore tries to soften it. Sentiment- a complex of opinions and feelings used as a basis for judgment or action. A mental attitude, judgment or thought often conditioned by feeling more than reason. Humanism-is the placing of man at the center of all things and making him the measure of all things.
2. Herbert Schlossberg in his book *Idols for destruction* argues that assumptions are more powerful than assertions because they by-pass the critical faculty and thereby create prejudice. Assumptions are beliefs. And they are beliefs so taken for granted that it is not deemed necessary to prove them. That is what makes them doubly seductive. The false assumption is additionally beguiling because it often appeals to one of worst instincts- the desire to be fashionable (respectable) or at least to avoid being associated with the unfashionable or unpopular. ( The biblical writers commonly took positions that were contrary to the accepted wisdom of their ages). Let me illustrate this point; Bruce K. Waltke noted evangelical scholar of the old testament from RTS Orlando is quoted as saying "If the data(argument) is overwhelmingly in favor of evolution, to deny that reality will make us a cult... some odd group that is not really interacting with the world (against the world for the world). And rightly so, because we are not using our gifts and trusting God's Providence that brought us to this point of awareness". I submit to you that he look at the unassailable argument for evolution and concluded that evolution must be true, or the great desire to be respectable. Also I would add the many students going to college entering in as Christians but coming out inclusive, arminian, evolutionary, universalist, and they don't want to come back to Berean. A side note; John 1:1-5- Mind before matter; God before people; plan and design before creation; life from life; and enlightenment from Light.
3. Let me illustrate; On a clear day the sun appears to be flat as a plate of silver; the moon when it is full on a clear night appears to be as big as the sun; and the rainbow appears to be a large substantial arch in the sky: all which in reality are gross falsehoods. So impiety puts on the face of justice; hypocrisy and false notions wear the mask of godliness; deceit and evil are often clothed in the shapes and appearances of truth and goodness. A side note: one commentator argues all that is necessary to market evil to professing Christian is to put it in evangelical language.
4. Let me start with the opposite of this statement; truth persuades by teaching. The example I give is Paul in Acts 9:22, and Acts 17:2 in which Paul went in and reasoned with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for Christ to suffer and rise from the dead. The Sophists were the first philosophers to self-consciously despise wisdom. They insisted that wisdom cannot be found. If there was no truth to be found and taught, then perhaps we



should learn to persuade people through manipulation. Sophistry is found in all areas of our culture including media, science, government, and academia. In Thomas Sowell book titled *Intellectuals and Society* he has a chapter called *Optional Reality* in media and Academia in which he demonstrates how the media reports selective and atypical samples, suppressing some facts altogether, or filtering out the inconvenient meanings or connotations of words. When words lose meaning people lose freedom and even their lives.

5. Every alternative to Christianity is a religion. Every philosophy or ideology has to answer the same fundamental questions. Creation: How did it all begin? Fall: What went wrong? Redemption: What can we do about it? How can the world be set right again? Christian faith is grounded in historical events. That is why the search for truth must drive us to the sources, to the collection documents we call the Bible.
6. Through cultural conditioning there are key words used to either cause people to attribute prejudice unthinkingly to others, or to turn the mind off completely. The term Uncle Tom is one of the profound examples I could give. Uncle Tom, the protagonist of this allegory is a type of Christ. Tom is the perfect Christian; in fact he is a super Christian. Uncle Tom faces ignorance and the most bestial cruelty with supernatural Christ like compassion, patience and understanding. He acknowledges the seemingly overpowering evil of chattel slavery while recognizing the Christian mandate of allowing God to ultimately right the wrongs inflicted upon him. Tom had faith in the knowledge that what he suffered on earth was fleeting and nothing compared to an eternity of peace which God Himself prepares for those who believe in Him. Simon Legree is the evil slave owner that Tom finds himself in the clutches of late in life. Sambo and Quimbo are Legree's exceedingly cruel black overseers. Legree having purchased Tom because of his intelligence with the mind of putting him in charge, soon finds him incapable of the inhumanity necessary to fill the job and the sadistically brutish Sambo and Quimbo become his constant tormentors. Tom is beaten to death carrying to his grave the hiding place of the escaped slaves. Before he dies Sambo and Quimbo, upon seeing Tom's bravery facing death and the perplexing mercy he showed them and Legree during his murder in forgiving them, showed genuine regret for the parts they played in his death, and they implored Tom to share his faith in Christ with them and Tom prays with them and leads them both to Christ just before he died.
7. Intellect is not wisdom, nor is it synonymous with reason. It is too much to expect that reason will flourish when intellect is despised. In modern times many dangers and disasters can be attributed to specific insane ideas or mind-sets that take control of large populations. The battering of the exercise of intellect will only lead to a flourishing totalitarian regime which will enforce stupidity. We must be uncompromising in our determination to proclaim truth, and avoid the intellectual flabbiness of the larger society. We need to make sure that our minds are brought up to the necessary habits of knowledge and judgment.
8. Learn the value of solid knowledge. (pro 11:9) Knowledge supplies principle and steadfastness. (2pet 1:5)
9. Christianity is not a series of truths in the plural, but rather truth spelled with a capital "T." Truth about total reality, not just about religious things. Biblical Christianity is Truth concerning total reality, and the intellectual holding of that total truth and living in the light of that Truth.