

Class 8 Logic and Faith

Questions: We will consider these types of questions in the talk tonight.

1. Is the Christian faith logical?
2. Does logic destroy faith?
3. What is the relationship between the mind and faith?
4. How does the faith relate to logic, and how does logic relate to faith?
5. When does logic become “out of line” with faith?

Two Categories of Biblical Faith:

1. Logic and the Objective Christian Faith (Teachings of the Christian Faith)
2. Logic and Subjective Faith (Saving Faith)

Four Components of Logic and Faith

1. The integrity of God
2. The nature of the human soul
3. The teachings of the Scripture/Divine Special Revelation
4. The experience of salvation

1) Logic and the Human Mind

- a. God creates humans.
- b. God creates humans with a mind, and He does so for a purpose.
 - i. “Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength” (Mark 12:30)
- c. God gives humans the responsibility to use their minds for the glory of God. (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 4:23; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 12:2; Colossians 3:2-3)
 - i. Developing the mind to the glory of God
 - ii. Using the mind to the glory of God
 - iii. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is living and active to the point of when it penetrates into our inner selves, it is able to judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
 - iv. The Bible talks in 1 Corinthians 2:12-16 about the powerful force that the Holy Spirit is in opening our thoughts and minds to the truth of God’s Word. In this way, we are enlightened; the Spirit of God uses the Word of God as a sword to wield and to defend. Unbelievers do not have this spiritual gift that all Christians have.
- d. Sin leads the human mind to rebel against God.
 - i. Sin and the mind, replacing logical sense of reality with illogical ideas
 - ii. Sin and the mind, regarding what is important, twisting priorities
 - iii. Sin and the mind, worship and idolatry
 - iv. Sin and the mind, moral twistedness, turning wrong to right and right to wrong (Isaiah 5:20)
 - v. Sin and the mind, the nature of foolishness

- 2) Logic and Saving Faith – Is logic an essential part (an essential part) of saving faith? Does the Christian faith call people to use their minds and logic to believe the truth claims of Christ? Is it reasonable to believe that there is a role that logic can play in assisting the birthing of faith...put another way: When God activates faith in a person's heart, does He use logic in the mind to do so?
- a. Why faith and logic are not enemies
 - i. Because logic, rightly applied, is not an enemy of the truth.
 - ii. Because logic, rightly applied, is the embracing of the truth.
 - iii. Because logic, rightly applied, allows the mind to be the gateway to the soul.
 - b. How faith and logic engage in the Christian experience
 - i. Saving Faith and True Knowledge
 1. Faith connects to truth, involving logic.
 - a. Faith and the plain/main part of the Bible
 - b. Faith and conviction of soul informed by the Bible
 - c. Faith and the liveliness of the Scripture
 - d. Faith, the Scripture, and spiritual growth
 2. Faith acts upon a logical understanding of truth.
 - a. Faith sees the truth
 - b. Faith understands the truth
 - c. Faith embraces the truth
 - d. Faith loves the truth
 - e. Faith seeks to apply the truth
 - i. Logic guides faith to walk in the journey of reasonability.
 - ii. Faith motivates logic to act when reason reaches its limits.
 - f. Summary:
 - i. Logic is faith understanding the truth.
 - ii. Logic is faith agreeing with the truth.
 - iii. Logic is faith putting the truth into the soul where trust can be experienced.
 - ii. Saving Faith and Convinced Conviction
 1. Conviction that regulates life
 2. Conviction that informs doubt
 3. Conviction that undergirds struggle
 - iii. Saving Faith and Personal Trust
 1. Personal trust embraces faith intellectually.
 2. Personal trust makes faith the worldview.
 3. Personal trust embeds faith in every aspect of life.
 4. Personal trust establishes the guide map for choices.
 5. Personal trust forms hope for the present and the future.
- 3) Logic, Miracles, and Transcendence Beyond – This is an extension of the topic of the compatibility of Christian faith with logic. Miracles by their very definition are beyond the scope of the mind and logic; thus, how might logic rightly consider the miraculous?
- a. Logic does not insist that material reality is ultimate.

- b. Logic does not insist that ultimate reality is not real.
 - c. Logic does not assert that scientific method is incompatible with ultimate reality.
 - d. Logic does not require that the present state of knowledge is the limit of knowledge.
 - e. Logic does not assert that one knows all facts at any one moment of time.
 - f. The definition of a miracle:
 - i. A happening beyond our understanding and explanation
 - ii. A supernatural event outside the natural order of creation
 - iii. A divine intervention in a timely and consequential way
 - g. Summary: Logic and faith are not incompatible in the area of miracles.
- 4) Logic and Scientific Theory – How is scientific theory used in a popular and modern way to circumvent the use of logic by the constituents at large? How might scientism (scientism = the ideological view that all answers must conform to a material explanation / a variation of this includes the coercive imposition on people that they must conform to what purports to be science without questioning or further definitive investigation). How does legitimate science use logic?
- a. Scientific logic is limited to observation and reproducing facts in a controlled environment.
 - b. Scientific logic postulates theories to explain the unexplainable, but it does not demand that all reality will be understood in the present state of scientific observation.
 - c. Scientific logic is not scientism, which asserts the ideology of materialism as the essence of reality.
- 5) Logic and Panic, a Coercive Methodology (a pastoral concern) – How often logic suffers in times of panic, grief, and sorrow! How might logic assist in thinking during such times? How can (and do) political and cultural coercive forces use a lack of logic in imposing views and behavior on the population? A good example of these things might be the recent pandemic. How should unverifiable information be considered from a logical viewpoint?
- a. Application of logic in a time of emotional panic
 - i. Emotional panic takes over controlling all aspects of life.
 - ii. The trained mind, trained in true logic, must impose its will in such times.
 - 1. The mind grabs hold of truth.
 - 2. The mind draws strength and help from truth.
 - 3. The mind runs to God.
 - 4. The mind fights against panic and anxiety.
 - iii. Do not make big decisions during a time of panic.
 - iv. Take care of important aspects of life during a time of panic.
 - 1. Get rest
 - 2. Eat properly
 - 3. Get exercise
 - 4. Balance time with friends and time being alone with God
 - v. Soak your mind and heart in truth and prayer:
 - 1. Review Scripture
 - 2. Write Scripture, poetry, and songs
 - 3. Pray with emotion
 - 4. Pray with truth
 - 5. Pray with love

- b. Application of logic in a time of coercion
 - i. Measure what is being promoted.
 - ii. Use biblical logic to analyze for truth in context.
 - iii. Make a reasonable and logical plan.
 - 1. Not radical plans
 - 2. But reasonable:
 - a. Incremental
 - b. Establish reachable goals
 - c. Live within the moment
 - d. Allow the process to develop
 - iv. Put the plan into action.
 - 1. Do what you can
 - 2. Do as you can
 - 3. Do when you can
- 6) Logic and Leadership – How must leadership use logic in a proper sense to give strong, appropriate, and helpful leadership to people? How do people sometimes request (or insist) that leaders conform to popular opinion without logic? Why is this a bad thing, and how should leaders respond to such situations?
- a. Logic and leadership
 - i. Leadership sees the truth.
 - ii. Leadership relates the truth to the people and the context.
 - iii. Leadership is servant-like, not serving personal needs.
 - iv. Leadership sees the big picture and is patient.
 - v. Leadership is loving.
 - vi. Leadership gives stability in an unstable situation.
 - vii. Leadership is not extreme, but dependable and trustworthy.
 - b. Logic and guidance
 - i. Logic sees the big picture.
 - ii. Logic sees appropriate steps in the process.
 - iii. Logic is patient to let the process happen.
 - iv. Logic trusts God, not what is perceived or assumed.
- 7) Logic and Problem Solving (a summary of how logic is used in the Christian life for problem-solving)
- a. Get information:
 - i. Collect information
 - ii. Validate information
 - iii. Categorize information
 - iv. Analyze information
 - b. Connect information to life:
 - i. Determine issues
 - ii. Establish priorities
 - iii. Connect priorities to goals
 - iv. Distinguish between reachable/practical goals with ultimate goals.
 - v. Make reachable goals your target for the plan
 - c. Act on information
 - i. Determine goals and review the plan

- ii. Put the plan to a flowchart, plot objectives
- iii. Add a chronology to the flowchart
- iv. Plot checkpoints for update on process
- v. Start, act

8) A Final Word:

- a. The demise of logic in a sinful society
 - i. Rejection of truth leads to a loss of logic.
 - ii. Loss of logic leads to a loss of morality.
 - iii. Loss of logic and morality leads to idolatry and evil coercion.
- b. The role of logic in church and the Christian life
 - i. Preach Christ, the Truth.
 - ii. Teach the Bible, centering on the gospel.
 - iii. Emphasize discipleship, helping people to grow in the faith.
 - iv. Develop leaders