

How to Think like God or Evaluating Worldviews

Part One

When history of the modern world is finally written by the hand of God in the book of eternity, there will be two key factors, in my opinion, that He will note which directly lead to the downfall of the United States of America. I do not believe that it will be Darwinism, secular humanism, materialism, hedonism, socialism or any one of the myriad false philosophies that have begun to permeate our society today; although each of these have resulted from the two factors I am about to discuss. None of these could have put their foot in the door without these two dreadful causes of the extinction of American society.

Please allow me to begin with the last of the causes first, because I believe that it could never have arisen without the first. The last of the fatal flaws in American society was the utter banishment of God Almighty from the public square and marketplace of ideas. This banishment of God was certainly marked by the landmark Supreme Court decision that removed prayer from school in the 1960s, but it started much earlier than that. It appeared first in academia, then in law, and finally in the hearts of the American people. It began with a subtle lie propagated on the American culture that the founding fathers had intended there to be a wall of separation between church and state.

Now, please don't get me wrong, I am a Baptist and as a Baptist, I strongly believe that the Bible teaches that the state should not run the church, and the church should not run the state. I do not believe that God ever intended, outside the nation of Israel and the millennial kingdom, that theocracy (the direct rule of God) should ever be the mode of human government. But I do believe that we have all bought into a lie propagated by the devil that somewhere in the Constitution of the United States it says that the church and state should be separate.

What the First Amendment does say is that "Congress shall make no law abridging the free exercise of religion" in the United States. Simply put, the framers of our Constitution wanted to make sure that there would not be a state church. Men and women, and boys and girls, in the United States of

Americans are free to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience and the teachings of the word of God. The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights was not given for the purpose of keeping religion out of the marketplace of ideas or away from the public square. The Founders envisioned a culture and society that would be impacted by the lively debate among people of faith. And the Founders expected that Christians would not retire from discussions of religious and moral questions in the public arena. The First Amendment was ratified to protect the right of the American people to worship God or not to worship God according to their own desires.

But what was designed to protect Americans from the intrusion of government upon the church, has been perverted by deliberate misrepresentation to exclude God from American society. We have been told that religion is a “private matter of the heart” and should be practiced in private where it will not affect or offend our neighbor who may not choose to worship God. Hence a prayer to begin the school day was removed, as not to offend any child whose parents did not wish to worship God. The Gideons were banned from passing out Bibles to elementary school students because that was viewed as promoting religion, and yet at the same time advocates of secular humanism, Darwinistic materialism, hedonism, and a myriad of other humanistic religious viewpoints were given free reign not only to promote their (religious) agendas to our kids, but also to mock and denigrate any so foolish as to cling to the notion that there is a God! Christ can be mentioned at school, but only as a swear word in the blaspheming literature that promotes the destruction of the family and has gutted the morality held by the grandparents and great-grandparents of the students. The Ten Commandments are no longer taught, or if they are, they are, they are taught negatively as a clear example of a repressive religious agenda that oppresses women, homosexuals, transgender people and folks that just want to have fun.

And what has been the result of banishing God from our schools, our halls of government, the board rooms of our corporations, the lecture halls of our universities, and the bedrooms of our children? Our society has become a society of hopelessness where suicide is the leading cause of death among our children. Our children have been set adrift in a sea of moral relativity with no anchor, no sail, no compass, no map, no chart, no star to guide by, and no captain to pilot the ship. And we have the nerve to act surprised when

they turn to violence, medication, sex, materialism, and narcissism! Why should we be surprised?

And that leads me to the second factor, which is actually chronologically the first. How did we get to the place where we could ban God from our lives, our schools, our churches, our government, and our institutions of higher learning? How did our country go crazy? How did our world lose its mind? The answer may surprise you.

In Europe and America, in the Middle East and in Asia, the human race has been deceived into undercutting the foundations of our learning by cunning men like David Hume, Immanuel Kant, John Dewey and their counterparts in almost every culture of the world-some sooner, some later-but all somewhere within the last two hundred years, the colleges, universities, seminaries, high schools, gymnasiums, middle schools, junior high schools and elementary schools of the world departed from teaching children how to think and instead turned them into sheep by teaching them how to make a living.

The elimination of logic, which is the precious heritage of the world, first observed and explained in the writings of Aristotle many years ago, but universally recognized with different names and taught in different manners, but regardless was still dedicated to teaching the leaders of society how to think correctly. When we abandoned teaching logic to our future leaders, our nations set a collision course with disaster and we are reaping the bitter harvest.

I went through kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, high school, undergraduate school, graduate school and I am currently a candidate for a PhD, and never once in all my academic pursuits, whether in the public or private schools, including one of the world's finest educational institutions, have I ever been taught the principles of logic. Perhaps you've had a better education than me, but aside from some algebra and Euclidean geometry, the majority of us have never once been taught the basic principles of logic and correct thinking. And this has led to the situation where we could forget God, believe the lie, and lose our minds and the minds of our children to godless hedonism and empty Darwinian materialism.

If we are to properly evaluate world religions, cults, and the occult, we will need some tools to make an evaluation that will be credible, consistent,

comprehensible, and coherent. In this lesson it is my goal to give you a priceless set of tools. The Author of these tools is God and their universality is indisputable. We can test the truth claims of all world religions, cults, and the occult using these tools. We can also lay our faith in the Bible, the Christ of the Bible, and the way of salvation next to these tools and find true Bible Christianity is perfectly consistent with the principles of logic. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that if you grasp these principles, along with the clear teaching of the Scriptures, you will never be at a loss to know whether something is true or not and whether a worldview or truth claim is valid or not.

But before we look at these principles, I would like to deal with an objection that comes from some people in our own camp. There are some Christians out there, and I am not doubting their salvation for single moment, who argue that logical principles are merely human thinking and that they therefore limit God. Some of them claim that any benefit we might derive from the use of logical principles have been so debased and defaced by the fall of man into sin that we cannot grasp the thoughts of God through logic because our minds are not capable.

This view holds that faith is believing something that is either without or against evidence. They maintain that faith is inversely related to the evidence. The less evidence we have more we need faith and they would argue that faith is simply a leap in the dark. They would argue that the highest and most commendable form of faith is based on the slimmest possible evidence and they make no to use logical principles or evidence for Christianity. They believe that the best protection for Christian faith against the assaults of the godless rationalism of the world is an intellectual isolation or insulation.

There are several varieties of this group but they all share the same strategy: they make belief self-certifying and cause it to be a self-enclosed reality that needs no intellectual fortification from apologetics. They would spurn any and all arguments for God, truth, the reliability of Scripture and any other issues and insist that we simply believe what the Bible says and turn our backs on any question that might arise from the lost or from among our own young people.

Unfortunately, this is exactly the position espoused by many independent, fundamental, Bible-believing churches today, and the result is that we have a group of young people who have been raised up in our churches and are filled with profound questions desiring serious answers, and we simply tell them shut up and go believe your Bible.

This is precisely why we lose 75% of our young people by the time they get to college. We have given them Bible stories but no answers. They can quote verses that they do not understand, and as a result, they refuse to believe and apply. We send them to public schools or even to Christian schools, but we do not teach them to think or give them more than a superficial answer to their questions. And we even make them feel that asking these questions is wrong in itself and so they walk away from our churches, their Bibles, and the God we so desperately want them to love and serve.

And so, I give you these principles in an attempt to send these principles out into our churches, our homes, and our schools-principles based on both logic and the God of the Bible. Let me share some reasons why I believe that learning to think logically will lead us to biblical thinking.

- First, to ignore the principles of apologetics and biblical logic is to ignore the admonition of I Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”
- Second, to ignore the principles of apologetics and biblical logic is to ignore the honest questions of our young people and those who have honest intellectual obstacles to overcome before trusting in Christ. It literally condemns the hell anyone who has been taught the philosophies of the world and who has never heard the Christian answer. Are we willing to ignore such a mission field?
- Third, while it is true that the Bible teaches that the mind and heart of man is corrupt due to the Fall, according to Romans chapters 1 and two natural revelation is sufficient ground to render all men condemned before a holy God. If mankind’s reason is able to be condemned on the basis of natural revelation, then is it reasonable to assume that the reasoning power of human beings when properly instructed is unable to perceive the truth of Christianity as it is logically presented?
- Fourth, to despise apologetics and logic is to reject the ministry of:

- Moses, who used the creation account apologetically to destroy the heathen accounts of creation existing in the time in which he lived;
- Elijah, who on Mount Carmel used a great apologetic method to demonstrate that Baal was not God and that Jehovah was;
- to deny the apologetic of the Lord Jesus Christ that demonstrated the scribes, Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees were not of God and presented the truth claims of Himself and His Father in Heaven;
- and of the apostle Paul who in many of his epistles showed the false nature of the truth claims of paganism, Judaism, and Gnosticism and exalted the simple salvation offered through the shed blood and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- Fifth, while we recognize the Fall of Man makes it harder to use apologetics and logic, it does not preclude its use or effectiveness.
- Sixth, while salvation is clearly a work of God on the basis of grace through faith alone, this fact does not banish the use of the vigorous answering of questions both to the lost and struggling Christians since we are not justified by our intellect but by the objective work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for our sin
- Seventh, we can show by the use of evidence and the Word of God itself, that:
 - The objective laws of logic do exist. In fact, in order to prove that they do not exist we would have to use the laws of logic against the existence of these laws, which requires they exist in the first place.
 - The objective laws of logic are transcendent, which means they are above location, culture, and time. We could go backwards to the beginning of time or forward to the end of time and these laws of logic would still exist and apply regardless of where we find them.
 - The objective laws of logic preexisted mankind. They are timeless and transcendent because they are part of the very character of God. Humans did not invent them. We do use our reason to discover them but they have been in existence from all eternity with God.

- All the objective laws of logic require a Lawgiver. We know this from our common experience of the world in which we live. The laws that govern our society and our culture, for example are the result of the reflection of rational minds. But more importantly, the conceptual laws of logic govern rational thought processes, and for this reason they require the existence of a Master Mind and that Master Mind is the mind of God
- The best and most reasonable explanation for the kind of mind necessary for the existence of transcendent, objective, and conceptual laws of logic is God. The Lawgiver capable of producing the immaterial, transcendent, and preexistent laws of logic must also be immaterial, transcendent, and preexistent. In this description is exactly the description of the God of the Bible.
- Finally, if we are brought to the place of seriously considering the message of the gospel, like CS Lewis, Lee Strobel, J.P. Morehouse, William Ramsay, or Ravi Zacharias did by good apologetic and logical arguments, then we should give thanks for a way to move aside barriers and obstacles and to answer the questions that do so easily beset us. In short, there is nothing in the apologetic enterprise that conflicts with salvation as a gift of God's grace and we have every reason to believe that it is God's way of pre-evangelizing the wayward human heart.

Evangelist the L Moody was once criticized by another Christian for his approach to evangelism. Mr. Moody's response was that he liked the way he did evangelism better than the way his critics did not do evangelism! I think we can like the way we do apologetics better than the way that these critics refused to answer the questions of our children and those who struggle with the Christian faith. I am reminded of John the Baptist, who after announcing to the world that Jesus was the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world, found himself in prison awaiting the headman's ax. This apparently bothered John (as it would me), who responded by sending messengers to the Lord Jesus Christ with the question, basically are you the one that we were called to follow, or should we seek another?

"Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John

again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. 7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? 8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Matthew 11:2–11

And if you read the text very carefully you will see that the Lord Jesus never condemned John for his question, but in fact called him the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. Christ responded by reminding John that He was fulfilling the Scripture by healing the sick, raising the dead, giving sight to the blind, and making the deaf hear again. Once again, the Lord Jesus Christ was using apologetics, evidence, and logical to answer in a scriptural way the honest questions of one of his own who was caused to doubt by circumstances.

A Primer on the Basic Laws of Logic

There's an old proverb that goes like this: "if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." In the next part of our lesson, I will not give you a fish, but I will teach you the fish by giving you the four basic laws of logic. Properly understood, and applied, these laws will allow us to evaluate the truth claims of various world religions, cults, and the occult, as well as every other department of life, in order to get ourselves in a position to show others the truth of the Word of God and the Christian worldview prior to evangelizing them (in the case of nonbelievers) or edifying them (in the case of believers who are struggling with issues) by the Word of God. Once again let me remind you, like creation (see Romans chapters 1 and 2), we are not depending on the logic to convert them any more than we are depending on natural revelation to bring them to Christ,

but we are using the tools God has provided by creating us in His image to point them to the Bible and way from false truth claims.

The first principle of logic is the principle (or law) of non-contradiction.

Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, is the first person in recorded history to make mention of this principle, but it has been around since before God created the earth in six literal days. It was originally stated this way: “Nothing can both be and not be at the same time and in the same respect.” Put in a simpler way, nothing can possess incompatible properties, or A cannot be non-A. This may still be confusing, so let me lay down some specific examples:

- Good cannot be non-good
- Right cannot be non-right
- Left cannot be non-left
- Down cannot be non-down
- Up cannot be non-up
- Sadness cannot be non-sadness
- Truth cannot be non-truth
- Falsehood cannot be non-falsehood

This is the way the world operates, and we instinctively know this.

- We are either alive or we are dead, but we cannot be both at the same time!
- We cannot be in Macon, Georgia and in London, England at the same time, even with the aid of the Internet!

And this is a marvelous way to test truth claims. We often hear the false claim made that all roads lead to heaven and that all faiths are good, but this statement when examined in the light of the first principle of logic is clearly demonstrated to be a sham.

- Some religious truth claims say that there is only one God.
- Some religious truth claims say that everything is god.
- Some religious truth claims say there is no God.

Using this principle, **we can quickly determine that either all of these truth claims are untrue, or all but one of these truth claims are untrue, but all of these truth claims cannot be true.**

- God cannot be both existent and nonexistent because those truth claims are contrary and contradictory.
- There cannot be a situation where there is one God and many gods at the same time because once again these truth claims are contradictory.
- God is either absolute truth or He is not, but He cannot be both.

This tool shows us the lie of the world's philosophy which claims that Jesus is not God, but He is a good man and a great teacher. Either Jesus told the truth or he is a liar! And this law of logic perfectly matches the Christian faith for it does not allow for this law to be broken:

- God is consistent by His very nature and He cannot be inconsistent
- God cannot lie by His very nature and He cannot be untrue
- God is holy by His very nature and He cannot endure sin
- God cannot deny His nature, He must be who he is
- God cannot make something that is both true and false. He must always be on the side of right.

Many modern thinkers would like to have this principle go away. **But see how ridiculous it would be if we would simply make the statement: the law of non-contradiction is false.** For this statement to be true, it must contradict its opposite, that is, we would have to demonstrate that light can be darkness, that truth can be error, that life can be death, that up can be down, that right can be left, and that good can be evil. Making this statement essentially means that true would be false and false means true which is totally contradictory and violates the law of non-contradiction!

The reason the world hates this law is that it devastates their whole way of thinking and their current lifestyles.

- All roads can't lead to heaven.
- All religions can't have a little corner of truth.
- And by implication, if you accept the first law of logic you have to accept that there can be only one way of salvation, God can only have one nature and existence and that there is only one truth by which all other truths must be judged.

So, no matter how often the postmodern person reacts to truth by rolling his eyes, shrugging his shoulders, and uttering "whatever!", with a smirk and a

shrug; the fact is, **truth exists exactly as the Bible says it does and there can only be one right answer** just as the Bible says.

The second principle is the law of the excluded middle. While this sounds complicated, it is actually very simple: **a statement and its negative cannot both be true at the same time.**

- Either I am a human being, or I am not, there is no middle ground.
- Either Jehovah is God, or He is not, there can be no middle ground.
- Either the wages of sin are death, or they are not, there can be no middle ground.
- Either Christ is God, or He Is Not, there can be no middle ground.
- Either the Bible is true, or it is not, there can be no middle ground.

No less a person of the Lord Jesus Christ used this law in Matthew chapter 6:24 when he stated that “no man can serve two masters”. He will love the one or hate the other. **It is because of this law of logic that people say Christianity is too narrow.** People will want to claim that it is not “either or”, but “both and.” But this is a violation of the second principle or law of logic. People don’t like the idea of things being black and white and they like to say that there are many shades of gray, but once again this violates second law of logic which in and of itself is nothing more than a reflection of the character of God.

Apologist and evangelist Ravi Zacharias illustrates this with a humorous account that occurred during his ministry on a secular American college campus. Ravi was making a presentation concerning the uniqueness of Christ. Following the presentation, Ravi was confronted with a University philosophy professor who charged, “Dr. Zacharias, your presentation about Christ claiming and proving to be the only way of salvation is wrong for people in India because you’re using ‘either or logic’. In the East we don’t use ‘either or logic’-that’s Western. In the East we use ‘both and logic’. So salvation is not either through Christ or nothing else, but both Christ and other ways.”

Of course, Ravi found this very ironic because, after all, he grew up in India. Yet here was a Western born, American professor telling Ravi that he didn’t understand how things really work in India! This was so intriguing that Ravi accepted the professor’s invitation to lunch in order to discuss it further.

One of the professor's colleagues joined them for lunch, and as he and Ravi ate, the challenging professor used every napkin and placemat on the table to make his point about the two types of logic-one Western and one Eastern.

"There are two types of logic," the professor kept insisting.

"No, you don't mean that," Ravi kept replying.

"I absolutely do!" maintained the professor stubbornly.

This went on for better than thirty minutes: the professor lecturing, writing, and diagraming. He became so engrossed in making his points that he forgot to eat his meal, which was slowly congealing on his plate.

Upon finishing his own meal Ravi interrupted, "Professor., I think we can resolve this debate very quickly with one quick question."

Looking up from his furious drawing, the professor paused and said, "Okay, go ahead."

Ravi leaned forward, looking directly at the professor, and asked "Are you saying that when I'm in India, I must use either," Ravi paused for effect, "the both and logic or," another pause, "nothing else?"

Ravi later commented that the next words out of the professor's mouth were worth the time listening to his incoherent ramblings. After glancing sheepishly at his colleague, the professor looked down at his congealed meal and mumbled, "the either or does seem to emerge, doesn't it?" Ravi added, "yes, even in India we look both ways before we cross the street because it is either me or the bus, not both of us."

The third principle for law of logic is the principle of bivalence, which states that any unambiguous declarative statement is either true or false. Obviously, some statements are intended to have double meanings, no meanings or to remain clearly ambiguous and the statements do not fall under this rule. But real declarative statements are either true or false - they are not neither true or false, nor are they both true and false.

For an example of an ambiguous statement, we might use: "Pat is a man." Given that Pat might be Patrick or Patricia based on the information that we are given we cannot determine whether this statement is true or false and therefore it is ambiguous.

But where evidence clearly abounds, this law states that any statement can be clearly proven to be either true or false. Here are some examples of some clearly unambiguous statements that can be proven true or false based upon the preponderance of evidence.

- There are many gods.
- Jesus is the Archangel Michael.
- Mohammed is the greatest prophet ever.
- There is no God.
- We all evolved from nonliving materials.
- The Bible is true.
- Christ is God.
- Salvation is by grace through faith alone in the finished work of Christ.

Each one of these unambiguous declaratory sentences must be either true or false and can be proven to be so by the preponderance of evidence either for or against it. This principle of logic makes it clear that we can determine truth based upon evidence. And once again, this is a logical principle that the world hates but is perfectly in line with Christian teaching.

In the fourth and final place, there is the principle of identity. This is the easiest of all logical principles to understand. Placed in the formula we might say $A = A$. A is the thing itself, and nothing other than itself. Let me illustrate it this way: it would not be true for me to say I am currently sixty years old and currently thirty years old at the same time! I either have to be sixty or thirty years old but I cannot be both at the same time.

Now I might say, I am not myself today, and by that I do not mean I am somebody else. What I do mean is I do not feel my usual vigor or I am not acting the way I usually act. But I cannot be anyone other than Kevin Lucas, Bible Teacher.

This principle is devastating to the materialist point of view for they wish to argue that there is no difference between the mental and the material. They believe everything is physical and material and that there is no such thing as a soul or even nonmaterial process, like thinking. But if it can be shown, by evidence, that the mental and the physical properties of human beings are two different things their whole worldview collapses. This is why they want to argue that there is a homosexual gene and that people are the way they are

because of their genetics. Never mind, of course, that they are never found such a gene and would have no idea where to find such a gene (because it does not exist).

These are the basic tools with which we will evaluate worldviews, truth claims, world religions, cults, and the occult. These tools are all in perfect agreement and harmony with the word of God and all run contrary to the current thinking of the world.