

LOGIC AND DEBATE

Course #653

Instructor: B. J. Clarke

Thursday Evenings (6-9) February 10-May 12, 2022

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a proper definition of logic, and to trace its origins back beyond human philosophers, all the way to the Creator.
- To educate the student in the basic laws of logic, and to equip the student with the ability to identify logical fallacies, both formal and informal.
- To demonstrate how logic (the science of correct reasoning) is indispensable in understanding and defending the Sacred Scriptures.
- To set forth evidence that Jesus was the Master Logician, and to learn to imitate His (and other inspired writers) methods of reasoning in refuting modern day doctrines and commandments of men.
- To examine the proper attitudes, preparation, and procedures necessary for engaging in debate.

COURSE RESOURCES: (Students are not required to buy these books, but are welcome to do so).

- The Holy Bible
- *Logic and the Bible*, Thomas B. Warren
- *Come, Let Us Reason: An Introduction to Logical Thinking*, Norman Geisler and Ronald Brooks
- *Discerning Truth: Exposing Errors in Evolutionary Arguments*, Jason Lisle
- *Christian, Contend For Thy Cause*, James D. Bales

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- For those taking the course for credit, be prepared to define and identify the three major laws of logic.
- Take good notes on the formal and informal fallacies we will cover in class. Use those notes to memorize what these fallacies are and be prepared to identify these fallacies.
- Be able to demonstrate how Jesus used the laws of logic in His disputes with others.
- Be prepared to use logical reasoning from the Scriptures to refute major denominational doctrines.
- Be familiar with the do's and don'ts for preparing for and participating in a debate.
- Be able to explain the requirements for making affirmative and negative speeches in a debate.
- Choose a Debate to read involving at least one of our brethren (Our N. B. Hardeman Library has the world's largest collection of printed debates involving our brethren).
- Write a report about your chosen debate, making sure to include the following elements:
 - List the participants in the debate and a line or two about who they were, where they were from, and where they worked.
 - Include the dates of the debate, and the location of the debate.
 - Type or write out the proposition, and tell who was in the affirmative (signed to prove the proposition), and who was in the negative (signed to negate or disprove the proposition).
 - As you read the speeches, look for the following:
 - Did the speaker in the affirmative define well his proposition?
 - Did the speaker in the affirmative use plenty of Scripture in attempting to uphold his proposition?
 - Did the speaker in the negative try and follow the arguments of the affirmative speaker?
 - Did the speaker in the negative attempt to answer the arguments of the affirmative point by point, or did he appear to give a pre-written speech that did not even seem to follow the arguments of the affirmative?
 - Did you observe whether the speaker committed any logical fallacies in their presentations?
 - Summarize what you consider to be the strongest arguments made for the truth in the debate.
- The debate report should be 6-8 pages, double spaced, and will be due on May 5th, 2022.