

Logic Lesson 6b

1. Prolegomena (which includes logic) deals with all of those pre-conditions that everyone brings to the Word of God and is *already* using in their understanding and application of Bible doctrine.
2. One common objection to the study of the various issues in prolegomena goes something like this: *But I barely have enough time to learn and apply Bible doctrine, I don't have time for prolegomena too.* However, the fact is that everyone is already doing *prolegomena*. Everyone is deeply involved in philosophy, logic, metaphysics, epistemology, and theories of truth every time he comes to the Word of God or applies Bible doctrine. *You can't not do prolegomena.* You either do it well (according to Truth as such, biblically) or poorly (not according to Truth as such, un-biblically). Furthermore, if one goes wrong in prolegomena, he will go wrong in understanding or applying Bible doctrine regardless of how "sincere" he may be.
3. In our study of logic we have noted the three acts of the mind. This is the framework for all of logic and thinking itself. To grasp this is to really move forward in thinking with regard to details of life or Bible doctrine and the plan of God.
 - a. 1st act of the mind is apprehension: the concept. The issue is whether the concept is clear or unclear.
 - b. 2nd act of the mind is judgment: the proposition. The issue is whether the proposition is true or false.
 - c. 3rd act of the mind is reasoning: the argument. The issue is whether the argument is valid or invalid.
4. In the first act of the mind we cover how terms (terms are the public "words" we use for the invisible personal concepts) are used.
5. Terms are either univocal, equivocal, or analogical.
 - a. A univocal term has one and only one meaning.
 - b. An equivocal term has two or more quite different and unrelated meanings.
 - c. An analogical term has two or more meanings that are partly the same and partly different, and related to each other.
6. Without understanding these differences one cannot accurately understand God, the Bible, Bible doctrine, or the application of Bible doctrine. You have not lived until you have heard really wacky things come from "doctrinal" believers due to failures in this area.
7. Consider how these distinctions help us properly understand God Himself.
 - a. The Bible teaches us that God is beyond our thoughts and concepts, even the best of them (Rom. 11:33). God is infinite and our concepts and terms are finite.
 - b. This means that there is no *univocal* term that could fully define the nature of God.
 - c. Yet the Bible takes for granted that human language is adequate for expressing and understanding the attributes of God, for in spite of the infinite difference between God and creatures, there is not a total lack of similarities.

- d. Hence, all God-talk is analogous. They are not univocal (e.g., our concepts of love are not *exactly* the same as God's). They are not equivocal (they are not different). God-talk is neither perfect nor empty, but it is analogous. There is an analogy between human love and divine love as well as other attitudes ascribed to God such as divine jealousy and divine anger.
 - e. Equivocal God-talk would leave us in total ignorance of God. At best, one could only feel, intuit, or sense God in some experiential way.
 - f. Univocal God-talk would deify man. Man would have to be God to be equal to God in understanding anything exactly like God does.
 - g. Understanding concepts/terms is the linguistic precondition to understanding Bible doctrine and gain positive knowledge of God and the plan of God.
8. Exercise. Identify the following underlined terms as univocal, equivocal, or analogical. We will go over them in the next Bible class (should be as much fun as having our ankles crushed). I will also provide the answers and explanations in the next logic lesson (6b)
- a. God loves the sinner, and a believer filled with the Spirit loves the sinner.
Analogical—an analogy between the two loves, no one can love with the exactness of God's love.
 - b. Poetry is art, and painting is also an art. *Univocal – while poetry and painting are different, both are art.*
 - c. “Christians believe God is three persons.” Then he must be triplets. Three persons make triplets. *Analogical – there is an analogy between human persons and divine persons.*
 - d. “I have to change the change I gave you for your dollar; I made a mistake.”
Equivocal—they are not the same at all.
 - e. “Buddhists seek Enlightenment. But they never find it. “Oh, the Enlightenment – we Westerners went through that once, back in the 18th century.” *Analogical—both have a reference to gaining more insight.*
 - f. We are to forgive as God forgives. *Analogical—no one can forgive exactly as God forgives.*
 - g. The candidate who is running for governor was running after a bus. *Analogical—the correspondence would be that is he going after the governorship and the bus.*
 - h. To murder is evil, and to be murdered is evil. *Analogical—moral evil vs. physical evil; sin vs. suffering; doing harm vs. suffering harm.*
 - i. Noah was righteous and God is righteous. *Analogical. No one can be as righteous as God in the same way or to the same extent.*
 - j. After the baseball game, the pitcher drank a pitcher of beer. *Equivocal. The “pictures” have nothing in common.*

In the Logos,

Pastor Don