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Faith Bible Church

<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

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## Logic Lesson 9b

### 1<sup>st</sup> Act of the Mind, Terms: Collective and Divisive Groups of Things

- A. Outline of logic and thinking: the three acts of the mind: simple apprehension, judging, and reasoning.
1. #1: “Simple apprehension” is a technical term. It means basically “conceiving,” “understanding,” or “comprehending” one object of thought, one concept, such a ‘mortal’ or ‘man’ or ‘triangle’ or ‘triangle with unequal angels.’
  2. #2: “Judging” is more complex than simple apprehension. Instead of just thinking one concept, like ‘man,’ it relates two concepts, like “man” and “mortal,” to each other by predicating one term (the predicate) of the other (the subject) in judgment that, e.g., “Man is mortal” or “Man is not a triangle.”
  3. #3: “Reasoning” is when one moves from judging to conclusions. As judging is more complex than simple apprehension, reasoning is more complex than judging. As judging moves from one act of simple apprehension (the subject) to another (the predicate), reasoning moves from two or more judgments (the premises, or assumptions) to another (the conclusion) in arguing that if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true. For example, “All men are mortal, and I am a man, therefore, I am mortal,” or “A man is not a triangle, and that is a triangle, therefore there is not a man.”
- B. The mental products produced in the mind by the three acts of the mind are:
1. Concepts (the products of conceiving)
  2. Judgments (the products of judging)
  3. Arguments (the products of reasoning, or arguing)

# Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind = OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC



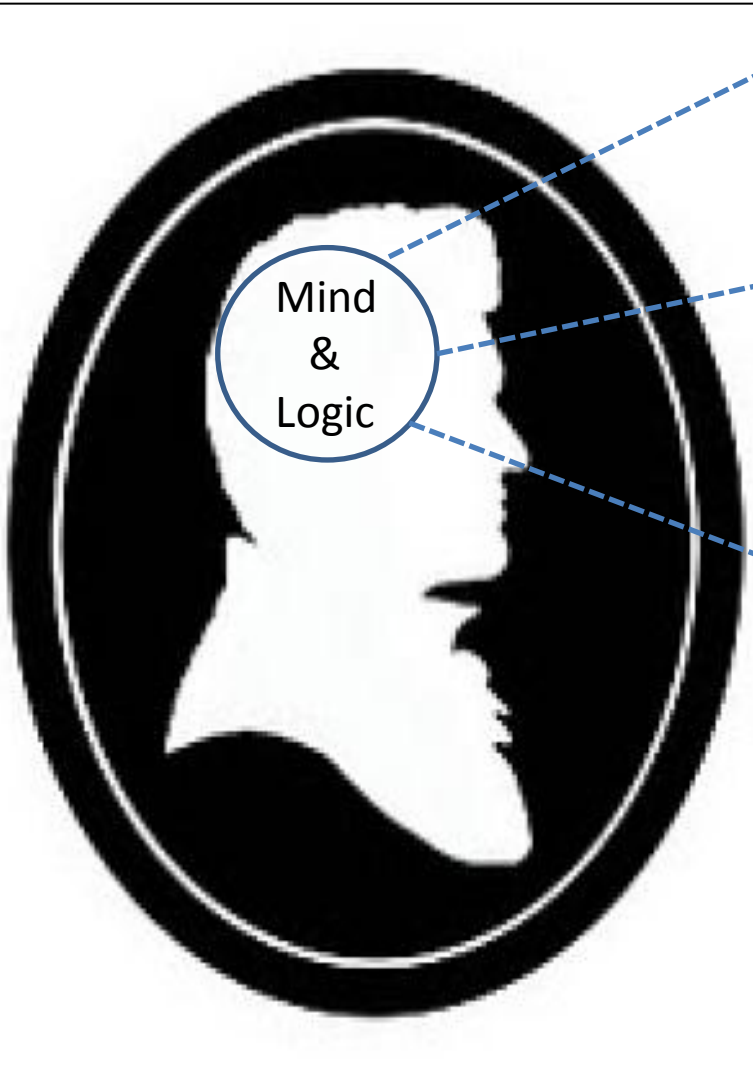
Mind  
&  
Logic

**1<sup>st</sup>, Simple apprehension:** this is conceiving one object of thought, one concept, such as mortal or man or triangle or triangle with unequal angles.

**2<sup>nd</sup>, Judging:** more complex than simple apprehension. Instead of thinking one concept like man, it relates two concepts, like man and mortal to each other by predicating one term (the predicate) of the other (the subject) in judgment that, e.g., Man is mortal or Man is not a triangle.

**3<sup>rd</sup>, Reasoning:** More complex than the above. As judging goes from one act of simple apprehension (the subject) to another (predicate), reasoning moves from two or more judgments (the premises, or assumptions) to another (conclusion) in arguing if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true. All men are mortal, and I am a man, therefore I am mortal.

# Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**



## **1<sup>st</sup>, Simple apprehension:**

- E.g., Concepts, terms, words.

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Judging:**

- E.g., Propositions, declarative sentences.

## **3<sup>rd</sup>, Reasoning:**

- E.g., Paragraphs, or at least two or more declarative sentences connected by a word like “therefore” which indicates an argument.

# Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**



Mind  
&  
Logic

## 1<sup>st</sup>, Simple apprehension:

- Terms are never true or false in themselves (like propositions); never valid or invalid (like arguments); they are only clear or unclear.

## 2<sup>nd</sup>, Judging:

- Propositions are never valid or invalid in themselves (like arguments)
- They are only true or false.

## 3<sup>rd</sup>, Reasoning:

- Arguments are never clear or unclear (only terms in argument); never true or false (only proposition in argument)
- Arguments are only valid or non-valid.

# Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**



Mind  
&  
Logic

**1<sup>st</sup>, Simple apprehension:** the issue is the concept.

➤ “What it is”.

**2<sup>nd</sup>, Judging:** the issue is truth.

➤ “Whether it is.”

**3<sup>rd</sup>, Reasoning:** the issue is validity.

➤ “Why it is.”

# Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind-REVIEW



Mind  
&  
Logic

**1<sup>st</sup>, Simple apprehension:** The issue is clarity. Terms cannot be used equivocally.

In this section **we have noted:**

- The 7 main categories of material fallacies (e.g., ad hominem under fallacies of diversion). It may seem odd that these are treated in the first act of the mind since they consist of more than a term. However, they are errors in understanding the meaning or use of terms, errors in the operation of the first act of the mind. They are not mistakes in propositions (true or false). They are not mistakes in logical forms (valid or invalid).
- Univocal, analogous, and equivocal terms
- Universal, particular, and singular terms.
- **In this lesson we will cover *collective and divisive things*.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, Judging:** the issue is truth. In this section **we have noted:**

- That only propositions can be either true or false.
- Interrogatives, exclamations, and interjections are not truth statements.

**3<sup>rd</sup>, Reasoning:** the issue is validity. In this section **we have noted:**

- Validity and nature of modus ponens, modus tollens.
- Invalidity of pseudo modus ponens, pseudo modus tollens.
- Validity of argument vs. truth or falsity of premises.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Act of the Mind, terms: Collective and Divisive Groups of Things

1. Terms designating groups of things are used *collectively or divisively*. When I use a term collectively, I mean the group as a whole. A collective term refers to a number of individuals looked at as a single group, like the soldiers in an army or the crew of a ship.
2. Only terms designating groups can be either collective or divisive. Which of the two it is, is determined by use, by how the term is used in a sentence. For instance, “library” is used collectively in the sentence “This library is composed of ten thousand books,” but the same term is used divisively in the sentence “This town has three libraries.” If I say “this class has the most doctrinally and philosophically insightful believers,” I use “class” collectively, because I don’t mean that every single member of the class is doctrinally or philosophically insightful, only that the class as a whole is. But when I say “all men” are mortal,” I use “men” divisively because I mean that every single man is mortal, not just that the species *homo sapiens*, or humanity, is mortal as a species.

Exercise: Tell whether each underlined term is used collectively or divisively.

1. That will be a tall pile of human good at the judgment seat of Christ. **Collective**
2. Christmas trees will be on sale soon. **Collective**
3. None of my logic courses is easy. **Divisive**
4. The pennies in this bag weigh five pounds. **Collective**
5. Men have a soul. **Collective**
6. The United Nations is a very evil organization. **Collective**
7. Mankind survives only by the grace of God. **Collective**
8. Doctrinal believers are disappearing, and you are a doctrinal believer, therefore you are disappearing. **Collective . . . Divisive (thus ambiguous statement)**
9. The Cubs have lost for over 80 years in a row, and Sosa is a Cub, therefore, Sosa has lost for over 80 years in a row. **Collective . . . Divisive (and thus ambiguous)**

Blessed,

*Pastor Don*