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# **A Christian Philosophy Of Learning: From Truth to Truth**

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March - May 2002  
CRPC Adult Sunday School  
C. Michael Holloway  
Class #6

<http://www.logicteacher.com/pol/>

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# Review of Previous Weeks

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P A biblically sound, comprehensive way of thinking about acquiring and applying truth includes affirming the following valuable verities:

- ▶  $V^2_1$ : A wise person will continually seek to acquire and apply truth for the glory of God. An unwise person will not.
- ▶  $V^2_2$ : Truth consists of all the propositions that God affirms.
- ▶  $V^2_3$ : A truth is still a truth, even if you do not believe it is true, or if you do not know whether it is true, or if God has not chosen to reveal that it is true.
- ▶  $V^2_4$ : The starting point for acquiring and applying truth is regeneration.
- ▶  $V^2_5$ : No person ever reaches a point where he should stop acquiring and applying truth.

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# Last Week: Applications

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## P Sign of spiritual condition

- ▶ One way in which I can judge my spiritual condition is by considering the extent to which I am seeking to acquire and apply truth.

## P Spur to superior scholarship

- ▶ I should be a more diligent and accomplished student than non-believers of comparable natural abilities.

## P Stimulant for humility

- ▶ The gap between my knowledge and God's knowledge is vastly bigger than the gap between my knowledge and anyone else's.

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# Last Week: Applications

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- ▶ Might less accomplishment be expected because of more balanced life?



Less **quantity** may well be justified; but less **quality** is not justified.

P Spur to superior scholarship

- ▶ I should be a more diligent and accomplished student than non-believers of comparable natural abilities.

P Stimulant for humility

- ▶ The gap between my knowledge and God's knowledge is vastly bigger than the gap between my knowledge and anyone else's.

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## **Valuable Verity (V<sup>2</sup><sub>6</sub>)**

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

**— 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

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## **$W^2_5$ : Answer these questions**

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P If I affirm that the Bible is the Word of God,  
is there anything else that I also need to affirm,  
before I can affirm that I am a sinner?

P If so, what else do I need to affirm?

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## **$W^2_5$ : Answer these questions**

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P If I affirm that the Bible is the Word of God,  
is there anything else that I also need to affirm,  
before I can affirm that I am a sinner?

P If so, what else do I need to affirm?

To get from knowing  
the Bible is the Word of God  
to knowing I am a sinner,  
I have to construct an argument  
(that is, reason from known truth  
to new truth).

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## **Valuable Verities ( $V^2_7$ & $V^2_8$ )**

**God does not need to reason  
from known truth to new truth,  
because  
He knows everything all at once.**

**Humans must reason  
from known truth to new truth,  
because we do not know  
everything all at once.**

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# Basic Argument

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All (humans) have sinned ...  
(Rom 3:23)

I am a human

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I am a sinner

---

# Basic Argument

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All (humans) have sinned ...

(Rom 3:23)

premise 1

I am a human

premise 2

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I am a sinner

conclusion

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# Basic Argument: As it Really is

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affirmed, but unstated premises

{ Bible is the Word of God; we can accurately distinguish humans from non-humans; ... }

All (humans) have sinned ...

(Rom 3:23)

premise 1

I am a human

premise 2

---

I am a sinner

conclusion

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# Basic Framework

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{ affirmed, but unstated premises }

Stated Premise 1

Stated Premise 2

...

Stated Premise n

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Conclusion

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# Two Basic Types of Reasoning

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## P Deductive

- ▶ Valid form and true premises yield a sound argument, which guarantees a true conclusion.
- ▶ Invalid form tells nothing about conclusion.
- ▶ False premises tell nothing about conclusion.

## P Inductive

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# An Invalid Argument

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Cartoon deleted for copyright reasons.

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# Two Basic Types of Reasoning

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## P Deductive

- ▶ Valid form and true premises yield a sound argument, which **guarantees** a true conclusion.
- ▶ Invalid form tells nothing about conclusion.
- ▶ False premises tell nothing about conclusion.

## P Inductive

- ▶ Good form and true premises yield a strong argument, which **provides evidence** for a true conclusion.
- ▶ Validity/soundness do not apply; evaluation is in terms of strength.
- ▶ Two important concepts: burden of proof & standards of proof.

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# Burden of Proof

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P Who must give a strong argument?

P Three theoretical possibilities

- ▶ The person who affirms the conclusion
- ▶ The person who denies the conclusion
- ▶ Both equally

P Choice of who you think has the burden of proof will often determine your opinion about the conclusion.

- ▶ Safety issues are a prime example
- ▶ Other examples

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# Standards of Proof

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- P How strong must an argument be? What is strong?
- P One way of thinking about different standards, listed in order of increasing strength:
- ▶ 1: affirming conclusion has more practical benefits than denying the conclusion
  - ▶ 2: conclusion is more likely true than false
  - ▶ 3: conclusion is much more likely to be true than false
  - ▶ 4: conclusion is true beyond a reasonable doubt
  - ▶ 5: conclusion is true beyond any conceivable doubt
- P Weaker standards exist: I say so, some others say so, important people say so, ...

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## Valuable Verity ( $V^2_9$ )

**Human reasoning may be divided into two main types: deductive reasoning, which is evaluated as to validity and soundness; and inductive reasoning, which is evaluated as to strength, burden of proof, and standards of proof.**

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# Results of Survey

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1. Current events
2. History
3. Apologetics, literature, science
6. Political theory
7. Mathematics, theology

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# Plan For Remaining Classes

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apologetics — April 28

science — May 5

literature — May 12

history — May 19

current events — May 26

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# Next Week: Learning Apologetics

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P  $W^2_6$ : For the apologetic methods you know, think about these questions:

- ▶ What are some of the similarities among the methods?
- ▶ If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?

P Quote ID challenge #2 continues

- ▶ Who said, “If a picture is worth a thousand words, then why did God give us His Word, instead of His drawings?”
- ▶ Two wrong guesses so far.