



logic

WHAT MISCONCEPTION HAVE YOU HAD ABOUT SOMEONE AND HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM OR HER?

CORE VERSES

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-15



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READ MATTHEW 22:15-45.

Our worship is often a deeply emotional experience which deepens our faith and relationship with Christ. In verse 37, Jesus commands us to have more than an emotional response to Him. Our love involves our heart, soul, and mind. Mature faith requires clear, logical thinking. As we grow in Christ, we should also cultivate our minds to think logically.

Many of Jesus' interactions provide great examples of how to think clearly and logically. In verses 15-22, the Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus. They ask Jesus if they are supposed to pay taxes to Caesar. Answering yes would make Jesus a Roman sympathizer. Answering no would indict Jesus of a rebellious act. The Pharisees think it can only be one or the other, which is known as a false dichotomy. But Jesus offers a third option satisfying both Roman law and the divine Law. It is OK to pay government taxes and still live for God completely.

Next the Sadducees try to trap Jesus surrounding their disbelief in the resurrection (vv. 23-33).

Looking to get Jesus to concede that there is no resurrection of the dead, the Sadducees ask what would happen to a widow in the resurrection if she belonged to seven different brothers. They design an argument by a *reductio ad absurdum*—an argument that, when drawn to its logical conclusion, is ridiculous. But Jesus says they falsely assumed the way things are here on earth will be the same as after the resurrection, thus defeating their arguments.

The Pharisees continued to press Jesus, asking which commandment is the greatest. Singling out one command would elevate one and minimize another, again leaving Jesus open for ridicule. Jesus' answer encompasses the most important pieces of the Law—its focus on God and our love for others. Jesus modeled the importance of careful, logical thinking. He clearly loved God with His mind, and He calls us to do the same.

CORE CONCEPTS

Mature faith requires clear and logical thinking.

Logic:

The process of thinking according to reason

IS IT NECESSARY FOR FAITH TO MAKE SENSE?
