

Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking: **Objective Analysis** to form **Judgement**

Socratic Method: **Questions** stimulate Critical Thinking

contrast Teaching to the Test: Right Answers (Indoctrination)

- doesn't require Critical Thinking
- does require "Trusted Expert" to determine answers

Objective: What if the Trusted Expert isn't Objective? (Motive, Bias)

Nature of Man: Humanism vs Bible (Jesus - Jn 2:24-25) (Evidence?)

Prov 9:10 (ex: nuclear meltdown)

(1Jn 4:5-6) They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Biblical Wisdom/Understanding is Superior to worldly wisdom (Fear of the Lord)

(1Jn 5:19) We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

the devil has Sway, and he definitely has Motive

Science: Isaac Newton's God First approach vs Reason over Faith (Incompatible)

my Evolution story – Why lie?

(Ps 2:1-3) Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

Age of Enlightenment (18th century): intellectual reason, science, deism (2nd place)

19th century – Evolution (never vetted through scientific process)

– Humanism (replace God with man)

don't be Intimidated by "Science" (move faith to inferior position)

Credibility: function of Motive/Bias and Integrity, not Intellect

(Jn 7:14-18) Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. "If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

don't judge by Expertise, but Motive and Integrity

Liars profess Objectivity and Trustworthiness

Honest invite Scrutiny ("settled science")

Questions: Source – Motive/Bias (Incentive), *Proven* Integrity

Analysis: What if we're Discouraged from Questioning?

Scientific Method (Socratic Method)

Observation (Research), Hypothesis (Predictive), Experiment (Fail Test),

Analysis (Data – Objective), Conclusion (Repeat/Refine)

Science is Limited to the Observable/Testable (Evolution?)

Scientific Theory: strongly supported hypothesis

- *repeated* testing, *external* criticism

Theories do not become Laws

Law: describe observed phenomenon (mathematical), not why (cause)

Theories do not become Scientific Fact – Ongoing Questioning

Scientism: removal of Criticism from Scientific Method (Faith)

don't be Bullied by Scientism (Prov 9:10 vs "science will save us")

Climate Change: sun variations (planets) vs heat retention (.04%, 70-95% natural)

flawed premise, failed predictions, falsified data

"Science Denier" – Intimidation to avoid Scrutiny

Why lie? Economic, Political (Psa 2 – Humanism, Globalism)

Science + Politics = Politics

Scientific Process Stifled – Advancement, Funding

Questions:

Foundational Premise: sound logic from flawed premise = flawed conclusion

Logic Trail: Integrity of Process

Details – magic of 4.5 billion years (Leonard Ravenhill)

Definitive (Facts) vs Hypothetical (Speculative words)

not Science only, question everything

(Col 2:2-4, 8) attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Godly Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding Superior (Prov 9:10)

deceptive persuasive words – not just lies, calculated manipulative false logic

Cheat (Taken Captive)

Philosophy – exalts human intellect

Traditions – exalts established precedent (vs questioning)

Worldly Principles – exalts natural over spiritual

Judgement: Knowledge carries Responsibility

(Jn 9:39-41) And Jesus said, "For judgment (Krino - determination) I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains. (Testimony - Mt 12:36-67)

Are we supposed to make Judgements?

(Mt 7:1-6) Judge not (krino), that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Standard (Jam 2:13), Intention, Wisdom

(Ro 14:4) Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Only Judge People under your Authority, and even then carefully (Jn 7:24)

(1Co 2:12-16) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges (anakrino - appraise) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Don't Judge People (except under direct responsibility)

Do Judge Every Thing (analyze, appraise, discern)

fine line - person vs activity (world does the opposite - labels)

don't get between them and God (2 Cor 5:10)

Why is it so Important for the church to make Judgements?

Jesus came to destroy works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8), bear witness to truth (Jn 18:37)

we're to expose works of darkness (Eph 5:11)

(Isa 59:14-15) Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Truth guards against Corruption and Immorality

Church (not media) is the **Voice of Truth on Earth** (Responsibility - Salt & Light)

we Partner with Jesus in Prayer (Eph 1:10, 2:6, Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25)

our Prayers Fuel God's Justice

(Rev 5:8, 8:3-5) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Church is the **Declaration of Judgement in the Heavens**

agree with God vs repeat lies (fellowship, intercede against earth)

Identifying Satan's Lies (reason) provides Prayer Targets

(Isa 26:8-9) Yes, in the way of Your judgments, O LORD, we have waited for You;

The desire of our soul is for Your name and for the remembrance of You. With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Power of Prayer from Understanding (Critical Thinking)