



“Keeping Our Wits About Us: The 10 Most Common Logical Fallacies”

“Has it ever struck you as odd, or unfortunate, that today, when the proportion of literacy is higher than it has ever been, people should have become susceptible to the influence of advertisement and mass propaganda to an extent hitherto unheard of and unimagined?” -Dorothy Sayers

What Sayers wrote is, sadly, much truer in 2023 than when she penned these words in 1947. Whether the source is the advertising world or a political blog post, we are inundated with irrational thinking, where appearance often is deemed more weighty than evidence (or lack thereof.) In this age of Twitter and image-over-substance journalism, political arguments are made, not by informed debate, but rather by name-calling (e.g., “racist”, “Nazi”, “fascist”, and the like.) Nor is the church certainly immune from illogical thought. Christianity in this country often follows the entertainment-oriented, therapy-driven, personality-cult-ridden culture that is modern America.

In contrast, our Lord expects His followers to be clear thinkers! Four times in Matthew, Jesus asks his followers, “What do you think?” St. Paul chides believers for not thinking clearly when they resort to secular authorities to settle disputes for them: “Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! (I Cor. 6:3).” Elsewhere, he exhorts Corinthians to “judge for yourselves”. But if Christians are to judge rightly on “matters pertaining to this life,” we should take care how logically we arrive at those decisions, either singly or collectively.

Here are brief descriptions and examples of the 10 most common logical fallacies. The examples are real-life, taken from actual conversations or ripped from today’s headlines. These are deliberately non-partisan; sloppy reasoning exists on all sides. They may make you angry, but the point is to help us think more clearly, regardless of our position!

See if you can spot the logical fallacies for yourselves:

Personal Attack (aka Ad Hominem): Attacking the person, rather than disproving their point of view. *Example:* Ron is against the death penalty, but he’s a typical San Francisco leftist, so we can ignore him.

Popular Appeal (aka Ad Populum): Popular appeal attempts to prove an argument as correct simply because many people believe it to be so. *Example:* “80% of Americans have received the COVID vaccine. Who are you to question the wisdom of 80% of the country?!?”

Appeal to Authority: Something is judged true, because a famous, rich or powerful person believes it. *Example:* Pope Francis believes capitalism contributes to global warming; therefore capitalism is a sin.

False Cause and Effect (aka Post Hoc): This fallacy confuses correlation with causation; if one fact seems to predict an event, it must be the cause of the event. *Example:* The chess team gets better grades than the baseball team; therefore, chess makes you smarter than playing baseball.

Circular Reasoning (aka Begging the Question): The premise of an argument

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Confirmation Parent Meeting

Thursday, August 24

6:30pm
7/8th Graders

7:30pm
9th Graders

September 10 Rally Sunday



“Keeping Our Wits About Us:...” continued

and the conclusion say the same thing. *Example:* “The majority of people who cross the border illegally commit no other crimes, which proves that most undocumented immigrants don’t pose a criminal threat to this country.”

False Dichotomy: The assumption here is that there are only two possible answers to a situation; if one solution is disproven then the other solution must be true. *Example:* “Either we stick with “Lutheran” liturgy and the church dies, or we switch to contemporary worship!”

Over-Generalization: Over-Generalization utilizes too small a sample size to support a sweeping conclusion. *Example:* “Many of Bernie Sanders’ supporters are Millennials in favor of free tuition; therefore, Millennials think they are entitled to free handouts!”

Missing the Point: In Missing the Point, the premise (which may be valid) supports a specific conclusion or solution, but not the one that is stated. *Example:* “The US has one of the highest criminal incarceration rates in the advanced world; therefore, we should decriminalize certain crimes and release more convicts from prison.”

Guilt by Association: In this fallacy, the person(s) under attack will be linked to a movement, person or thing already discredited. *Example:* Luke 15:2: “...the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man [Jesus] receives sinners and eats with them.’” Implication: Jesus also must be a sinner!

The Straw Man: This entails taking an opponent’s most vulnerable position and extrapolating this one facet to an absurd degree. *Example:* Senator Bratwurst believes God created the universe in 6 days. How could such a stupid, ignorant man hold any public office beyond dog-catcher?

As you can see, even Jesus was a target of illogical thinking! As Christians, we ought to think clearly. Then we will be better equipped to fulfill our vocations sensibly, as parents, citizens, church members and carriers of God’s Word. Have fun with this list of 10! Grace and peace to you through our Lord, Christ Jesus!

Pastor Eric

Sayers, Dorothy: The Lost Tools of Learning. Originally published in The Hibbert Journal, 1947; reprinted by CrossReach Publications, 2016.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

YTD & Carried Forward Designated Funds as of June 2023:

Building:	1,381.01
Adult Education:	38.27
Sunday School:	509.62
Scholarship:	314.88
Youth Group:	(1019.00)
Memorial:	6,191.68
Mission tithe:	8,927.08
Mission Offering:	262.00
Quilters:	1,202.81
Property:	805.78
Property Sub Account	
Building Impr.	4,225.00
A.C. Fund	\$ 300.00
Pastor’s Fund	5,000.00
Audio/Visual:	3,140.74
Evangelism:	13.23
Evangelism Sub Acct	
Pastor’s Moving	25.00
Light House Worship	12,117.48
Office Tech. Fund	500.04
Worship Fund:	<u>126.49</u>
TOTAL DESIGNATED	44,062.11

**Year-To-Date General
Fund Budget Totals as of
5/30/23**

Budget
GF Offering: \$107,864.84
GF Budget: \$124,821.14
GF Short: (\$16,956.30)

Actual
GF Offering: \$107,864.84
GF Expense: \$112,178.94
GF Short: (\$4,314.10)

GREETERS &

USHERS FOR August

(Sunday Service)

Aug. 6: Betty Gransee &
Alice Siems

Aug. 13: Betty Gransee &
Alice Siems

Aug. 20: Gransee family

Aug. 27: Paul & Deb Bru-
delie

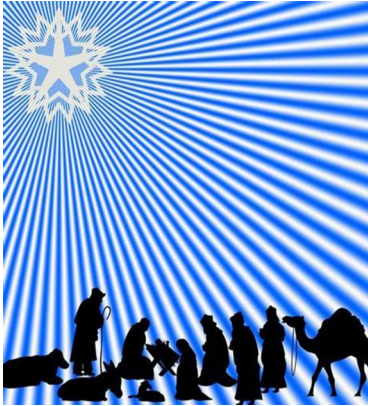
August Sunday Ushers:

Bob Johnson, Kim Olson,
Hunter Jenzen, Jim
Satterlund

Aug. Wednesday Ushers:

Ushers Needed!

Live Nativity Committee



**Looking for members
to serve on a
LIVE NATIVITY
COMMITTEE
For Christmas Season
2023
1st meeting after
worship on
August 13th. Sign up in the gathering
area.**

**Parent Small Group next meeting:
Thursday, August 17 @ 6pm**

BIBLICAL ROOTS OF COMMON PHRASES

Phrase: *“The Apple of Your Eye.”*

Meaning: A cherished person or thing, something precious.

Origins: The phrase comes from the ancient concept that the eye’s pupil was a solid apple-shaped orb and being essential to sight was precious. Carefully protected by eyelids which automatically close at the least hint of danger, *“the apple of your eye”* became an emblem of that which is most precious, to be jealously guarded. The phrase occurs multiple times in the Bible. In Deuteronomy 32:10, God finds his people in a desert land and he encircled them and cared for them, “. . . he kept him (Israel) as the apple of his eye.” In Psalm 17:8 we read, “Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.” Finally, in Proverbs 7:2 we read; “keep my commandments and live: keep my teachings as the apple of your eye.” Here the phrase literally means “the little man of the eye” referring to the reflection that appears on the pupil as a person watches what is most precious to him or her.

(The Lutheran Study Bible and Word and Phrase Origins, 3rd Edition, Robert Hendrickson)

THERE ARE MANY COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN AT OUR CHURCH. ALL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS COULD USE MORE PEOPLE. THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME & TALENTS. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. NO INVITATION NEEDED, JUST SHOW UP.

STEWARDSHIP:
AUGUST 1, 5:30PM

WORSHIP:
AUGUST 2, 5PM

PROPERTY:
AUGUST 7, 6:30PM

SAT., AUGUST 12
MEN’S BIBLE: 8 AM

WOW: 9:30 AM

EVANGELISM:
AUGUST 22, 6:30PM

EDUCATION:
AUGUST 29, 6:30PM

QUILTERS:
TUESDAYS 10:00AM

CHOIR:
OFF UNTIL
SEPTEMBER



School Supply Drive

August is already here with the start of a new school year just around the corner. Since not all students can afford the cost of all their needed school supplies, our church is again asking YOU to help fill the box in the gathering area with needed items. Lists for the Hartley students are posted in Walmart and any item you can give is greatly appreciated. Also provided is a list of optional items that teachers have a real need for, and those items would be greatly appreciated as well. If you'd rather give a monetary donation, you can make the check out to Christ the King marked "School Supplies" and place it in the offering plate. These gifts will be consolidated and a single check will be given to the school to be used by the school staff to purchase needed items. Bring your items to church and put them in the box marked "School Supplies" in the Gathering area. Just think of the joy on the children's and teachers' faces when they receive supplies that would otherwise be unavailable to them, and how wonderful both will feel when they start the new school year. Thank you for sharing the joy in this Evangelism project!

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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507.835.9176
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Thank you

Dear Christ the King Church members and friends,

I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for your generous gifts, prayers, and support at my celebration for graduation. I would also like to thank you for the scholarship opportunity. I cannot express enough, how thankful I am for all the love I have received.

God bless you all,

Bryce Mudgett

