

## W.E.C. 10 – Identifying Unjustified and Contradictory Statements of Truth

- **Mere Opinion** (not an argument)
  - Most common objection – “Well, that’s my opinion, so...” “That’s just your opinion...” “Not everyone believes what you do...” “All beliefs are equally valid...”
    - These are not arguments / they prove nothing
    - Opinion has no intellectual merit
    - Opinion is not proof
    - Opinion does not answer any “why” question
    - We don’t do this when we are diagnosed with a medical condition
      - Do we do this at the Dr’s office?
      - “You have diabetes”
      - “Well, that’s just the Dr’s opinion, not mine”
  - Critical thinking / reasoning is not common today
  - People are not taught *how* to think, they are told *what* to think
  - What has taken the place of thinking?
    - Relativism / Pluralism / Nihilism
    - Everybody wins
    - Emotional happiness
    - Being nice
- **Self-contradictory statements**
  - “There is no absolute truth”
    - Are you absolutely sure?
  - “That’s true for you, not for me”
    - So there really is no absolute truth, just opinion?
    - Then why are you making a truth statement?
  - “Nobody can know anything for sure”
    - Do you know that for sure?
  - “My God is big enough for all religions”
    - How about pagan occult child sacrifice?
  - “There is no such things as objective truth”
    - This is an objective statement about truth
  - Religious tolerance cannot be founded on relativism
    - “Tolerance” and “Coexist” bumper stickers
    - If everyone is right then nobody is wrong
      - How can human sacrifice ever be viewed as immoral?
      - Hitler’s view of Jewish people?
      - Slavery?
      - Human trafficking?
    - Don’t they have the right to exercise their faith just like everyone else?
  - God defines Himself
    - If God is whatever you want Him to be:

- He is no longer God
  - He cannot be anything else but Himself
    - God cannot deny Himself
    - God cannot contradict Himself
    - Therefore – God is absolute by necessity
- We have been conditioned
  - People are radically offended when you tell them they are wrong
  - They have emotional breakdowns / label and call people names / ban you / arrest you / fine you / even kill you
- **Ignorant Conjecture** (ignorant unsubstantiated claims)
  - Lack of research / evidence / academic credentials
  - Cliche arguments / beliefs that seem likely
  - Hearsay / taking false ideas for granted / assumptive knowledge
  - False assumptions / ignorant criticism – broad unsubstantiated objections
    - Example: The Bible equated to the telephone game
    - Example: The Bible is a human invention written by man
    - Example: The Bible was put together by the theological winners (elite) at the Council of Nicea under Emperor Constantine
    - Example: The Bible is 2,000 years old - how can it apply today?
    - Example: The Bible condones slavery, genocide, and racism, therefore it is an evil book
    - Example: The church is full of narrowminded hypocrites
    - Example: We stopped believing in fairytales after the middle-ages
  - Arbitrary arguments are random and cannot refute anything
  - Ask them what their evidence / research is for the justification of their position
    - Ignorant conjecture cannot disprove anything
    - Ignorant conjecture is not considered evidence
    - They must have justification their authority for their arguments
    - These arguments demonstrate their ignorance
      - Point this out to them
      - Don't take arguments like this seriously

- **False belief from unjustified presuppositions**
  - **Example: Miracles**
    - *The Bible contains miracles*
    - *We know miracles cannot happen*
    - *Because everything that happens has a cause that can be analyzed*
      - *God and the supernatural cannot be analyzed*
      - *It is arbitrary – imaginary – superstitious – irrational;*
    - *Everything that happens takes place according to the uniformity in nature*
      - *We can study / test / verify / examine what is real*
    - *Miracles go against the uniformity of nature and scientific laws*
      - *They cannot be tested empirically*
        - *Therefore – miracles cannot happen*
        - *The Bible is fiction*
        - *It would be foolish to use a fictional book to interpret reality*
  - **Response:** “How do you know this?”
    - How much would you have to know about science and the universe in order to be 100% sure there is has always been and there always will be uniformity in nature?
      - Answer: – everything
    - You would have to analyze and test all things in all places in all times in order to make this claim
    - You do not know for sure that what you claim is true since you have not empirically tested all things in all places in all times.
  - **Response:** “Prove to me, according to the scientific method, that miracles cannot happen”
    - You can’t
      - Your own position cannot prove that miracles are impossible
      - It’s simply your mere opinion / conjecture
      - This shows that your position is not based upon rational observation
        - It is based upon your own interpretation (immaterial) and not science (material)
    - All you are doing is simply taking a small amount of evidence and absolutizing it to make it fit your theory
    - Therefore – your very own position refutes itself
  - **Objection:** “All you are doing is taking the concept of God absolutizing it. Miracles cannot happen because this universe operates naturally in a law-like uniform fashion”
    - What happened yesterday is what happens today and is what will happen tomorrow
      - This is a scientific fact
      - It has been tested, observed, and found to be true
      - It is perfectly reasonable to believe this
    - A miracle would be a disruption in the order of the universe

- It would go against the laws of nature – against reality – against “what is”
- Miracles go against scientific observation and reason
  - Therefore: miracles cannot happen
- **Response**: “What would have to be true in order for this universe operates in a law-like uniform fashion?”
  - *A supernatural, infinite, intelligent Creator must exist in order to sustain all things as they are*
    - The Christian God
    - Yes – I am absolutizing God because He is the infinite that must necessarily exist in order for the universe to exist
    - The biblical God is necessary in order for natural law and uniformity to exist
    - Why do I say this?
  - Random chance could not create order and predictability
  - Random chaos does not produce uniformity
    - It just produces more chaos
  - God is necessary:
    - In order for there to be uniformity and consistency in the universe
  - God is necessary:
    - In order for the universe and the information contained in it (scientific laws) to even exist
  - God is necessary:
    - In order to maintain the universe to continue to function according to this information
  - You are assuming all of these things without justification:
    - That the natural laws of nature
    - And the uniformity you see within nature
      - Are a result of materialistic chaotic random chance
  - Your view of nature can only be true if Christianity were true
    - A sovereign God who is in control over all things
    - An orderly mind who controls things in a rational predictable way
  - Christianity must be true in order for the universe to exist and operate as it does
    - The supernatural must be true because the supernatural is what brought the natural world into existence
    - Therefore – miracles can occur because God is in control over the laws of nature

- **Objection:** “Everything you are telling me is based upon faith that you read in some religious book. I use science. Therefore, your worldview is based upon myth and superstition, and my worldview is based upon fact.”
- **Response:** “Again, it all goes back to understanding what is necessary in order to make sense and justify why the universe functions as it does”
  - Christians do not deny science
  - Christians do not deny that natural laws exist
  - Christians do not deny that the universe operates in a predictable manner
  - Christians simply have a justifiable reason as to WHY the universe exists and functions this way
  - We both observe and live in the same universe
  - We both experience the same natural events
  - Christians have a justifiable reason for this
    - You do not
  - Your worldview ends with human reason and experience
    - Your final authority for your interpretation is yourself
  - Your worldview FAILS to account for WHY the universe function the way it does
  - You simply take it all on faith
  - Faith:
    - That this all came about by random, chaotic, impersonal chance
    - That in the beginning the nothing exploded, which accounts for all the material matter and information in the universe
    - And after billions of years, here we are, living in a finely tuned rational / predictable universe that sustains life
    - And that it all came about by irrational free-floating matter in motion
  - Can you honestly say the Christian worldview is based upon myth and superstition, while your worldview is based upon fact?