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## Establishing the Foundation of Theology

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### Philosophy Can Establish the Foundation of Theology

1. *The Foundation of Truth*
2. *The Foundation of Logic*
3. *The Foundation of Knowledge*



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## Establishing the Foundation of Theology

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### Philosophy Can Establish the Foundation of Theology

4. *The Foundation of Morality*
5. *The Foundation of Human Life*
6. *The Foundation of God*

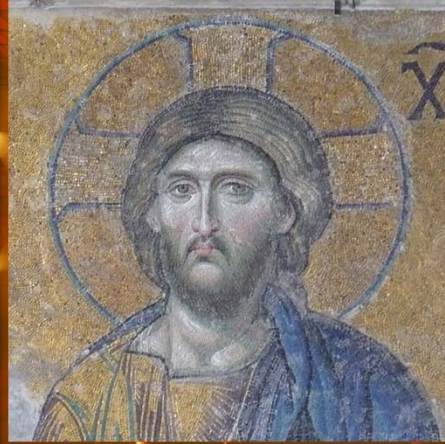




## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

"And you shall know  
the truth, and the  
truth shall make you  
free"

Jesus of Nāzareth  
*John 8:32*



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



"What is truth?"

Pontius Pilate

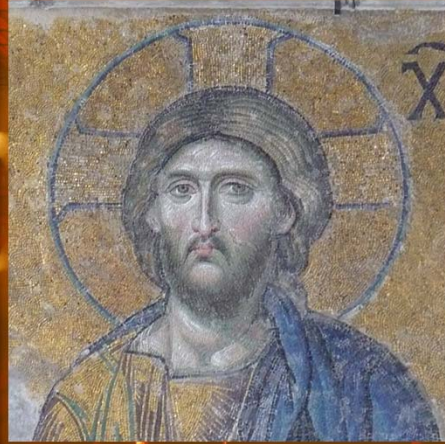
*John 18:38*



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

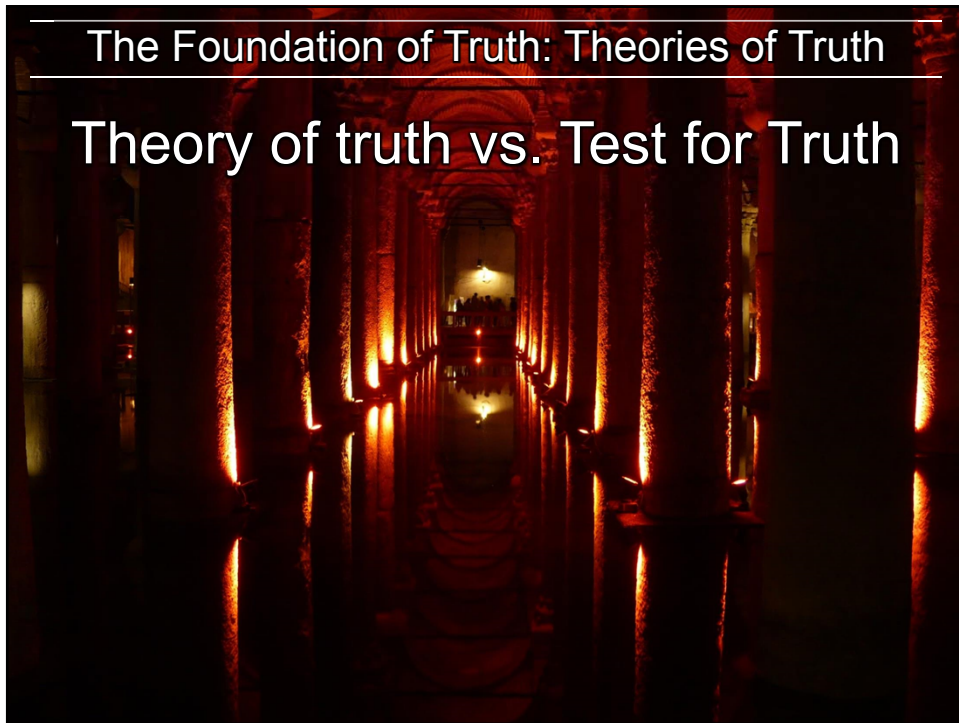
"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus of Nazareth  
*John 14:6*



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Theory of truth vs. Test for Truth



Theory of truth

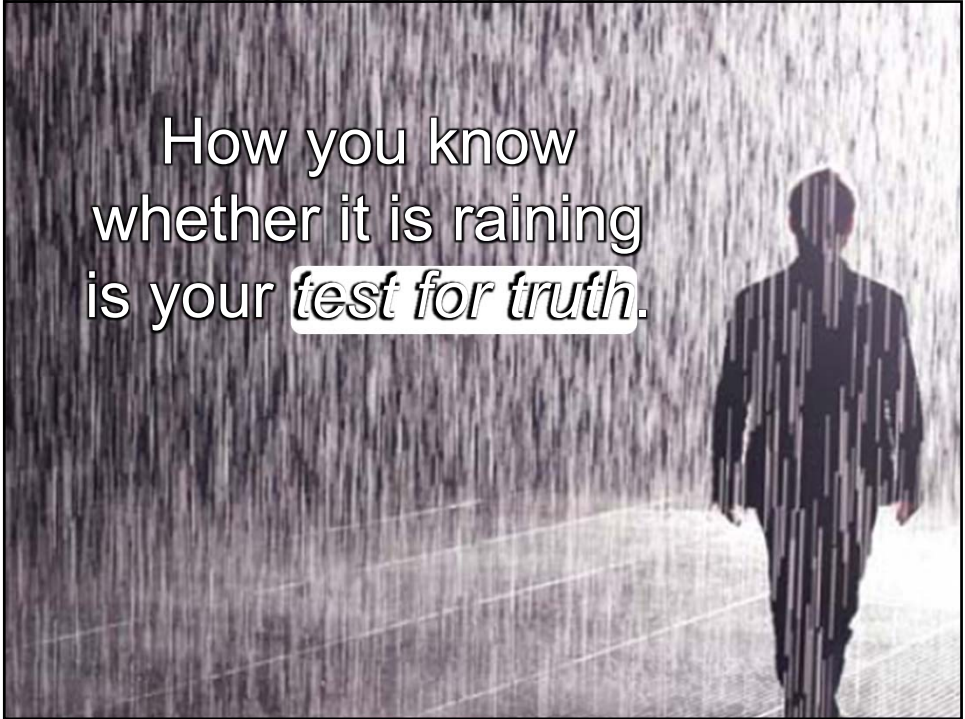
"It is raining!"

"Is that true?"

"Yes!"

Whatever you are  
saying about the  
statement 'It is  
raining.' when you  
say that it is true is  
your *theory of truth*.





How you know  
whether it is raining  
is your *test for truth*.

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Theory of truth vs. Test for truth

theory of truth - how one **defines** the terms 'true' and 'truth' or what one is saying about a statement when he says that it is true

test for truth - the means whereby one **discovers** whether a statement is true, regardless what is meant by the term 'true'

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

Correspondence

Coherence

Functional

Pragmatic



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

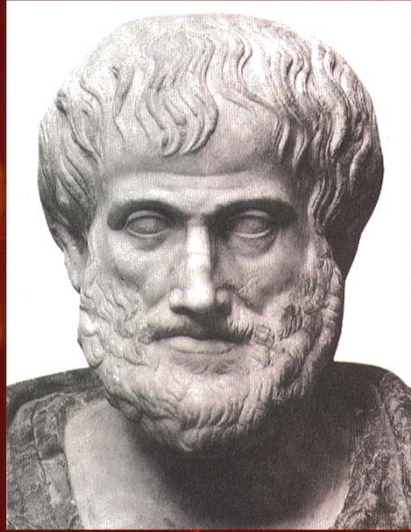
Correspondence

Truth is correspondence to reality.

- This says that a statement is true in as much as it corresponds to reality.
- Thus, the statement 'It is raining.'
  - ✓ would be a true statement if it is in fact raining in reality.
  - ✓ would be a false statement if it is in fact not raining in reality.



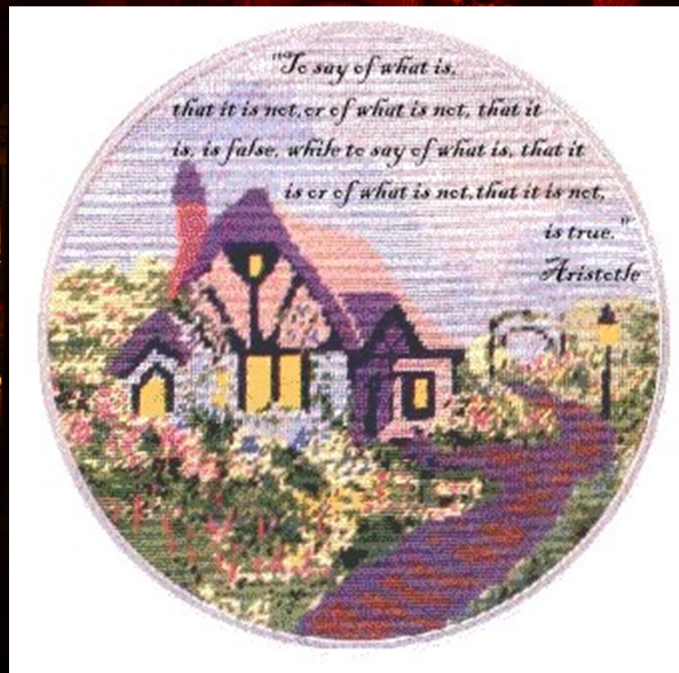
## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



### Aristotle

"To say of what is,  
that it is not, or of  
what is not, that it is,  
is false, while to say  
of what is, that it is  
and of what is not,  
that it is not, is true."

Metaphysics, IV, 7, 1001b26-29 Translation by W. D. Ross  
in Richard McKeon, *The Basic Works of Aristotle* (New  
York: Random House, 1941).



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



### The Resurrection of Jesus A New Historiographical Approach



MICHAEL R. LICONA

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



"Another challenge to the correspondence theory of truth is that historians are incapable of returning to the past in order to examine it in the light of their theories and thus can never verify in the strictest sense that their theories correspond to events in a truthful manner."

Mike Licona, *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2010), p. 90



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



"As with the challenges affiliated with perceptions, the inability of historians to verify their hypotheses most of the time only affects their *ability to know* truth. It does not affect the *nature* of truth itself."

Mike Licona, *Resurrection*, p. 90, emphasis in original

MICHAEL R. LICONA

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



"In addition to defining truth in a correspondence sense, realist historians attempt to establish criteria for identifying what is true in a correspondence sense. Historians should not change their theory related to the nature of truth in order to accommodate the uncertainty of historical descriptions."

MICHAEL R. LICONA

Mike Licona, *Resurrection*, p. 90

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Coherence

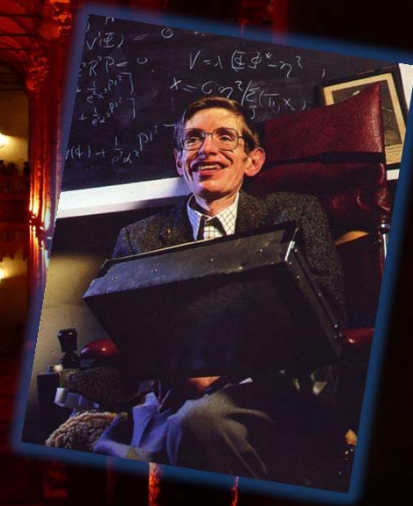
- Definition: A statement is true when it coheres with or is consistent with a body of other statements.

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Stephen W. Hawking

"A scientific theory is just a mathematical model we make to describe our observations: it only exists in our minds. ... It is simply a matter of which is the more useful description."

Stephen W. Hawking, *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes* (Toronto: Bantam Books), 139.





## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Coherence

- Definition: A statement is true when it coheres with or is consistent with a body of other statements.
- Truth cannot merely be coherence because by this theory, even a fairy tale could be "true."

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Functional

- Definition: A statement is true in as much as it fulfills its intended purpose.
- Sometimes known as the intentional theory of truth.

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



Daniel P. Fuller

"Although the mustard seed (see Matt. 13:32) is not the smallest of all seeds, yet Jesus referred to it as such" because "to have gone contrary to their mind on what was the smallest seed would have so diverted their attention from the knowledge that would bring salvation to their souls that they might well have failed to hear these all-important revelational truths."

Daniel P. Fuller, "Benjamin B. Warfield's View of Faith and History," *Bulletin of the Evangelical Theological Society* 11 (Spring 1968): 81-82, quoted in Norman L. Geisler, "The Concept of Truth in the Inerrancy Debate," *Bibliotheca Sacra* (October-December 1980): 336-337.

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Functional

- Definition: A statement is true in as much as it fulfills its intended purpose.
- Sometimes known as the intentional theory of truth.
- Truth cannot be merely function because it needs the correspondence theory to define itself.



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Pragmatic

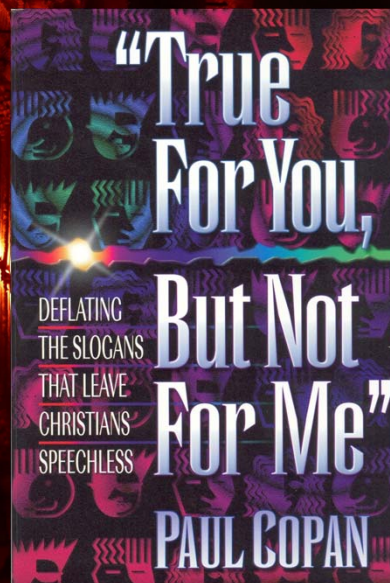
- Definition: A statement is true in as much as it works or is practical.
- The pragmatic theory gives rise to the notion that something can be "true for you but not true for me."

## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth



Paul Copan

Professor and Pledger Family  
Chair of Philosophy and Ethics  
Palm Beach Atlantic University,  
West Palm Beach, FL



## The Foundation of Truth: Theories of Truth

### Pragmatic

- Definition: A statement is true in as much as it works or is practical.
- The pragmatic theory gives rise to the notion that something can be "true for you but not true for me."
- Truth cannot be merely pragmatic because it, too, needs the correspondence theory to define itself.

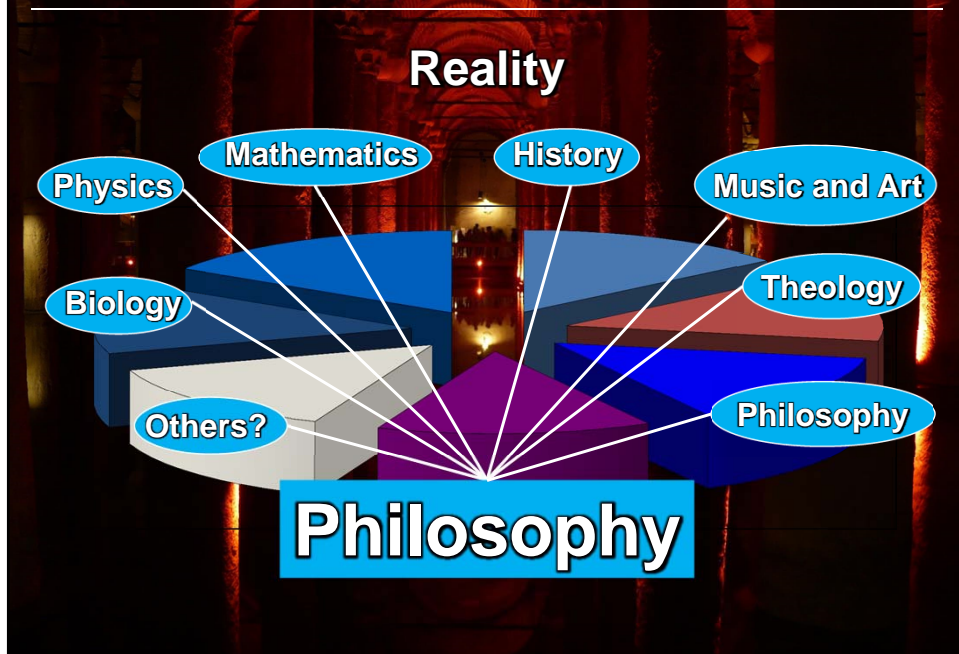
## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth

### Tests for Truth





## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth



## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth

### Two Serious Mistakes in Philosophical Thinking

1. Lesser: taking the methods of inquiry and tools of analysis for one aspect of reality and illicitly using them for another aspect of reality

## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth



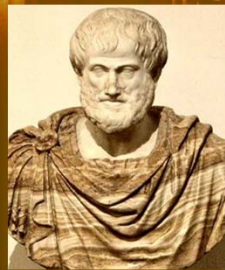
## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth

### Two Serious Mistakes in Philosophical Thinking

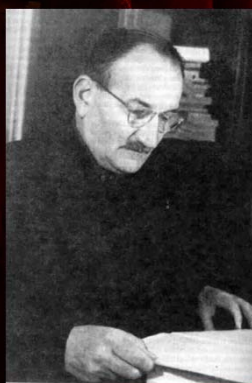
1. Lesser: taking the methods of inquiry and tools of analysis for one aspect of reality and illicitly using them for another aspect of reality
2. Greater: taking the methods of inquiry and tools of analysis for one aspect of reality and illicitly using for reality as a whole



## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth



## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth



Etienne Gilson

"Metaphysical adventures are doomed to fail when their authors substitute the fundamental concepts of any particular science for those of metaphysics. Theology, logic, physics, biology, psychology, sociology, economics are fully competent to solve their own problems by their own methods;

## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth

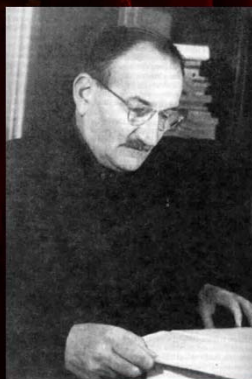


Etienne Gilson

"on the other hand ... as metaphysics aims at transcending all particular knowledge, no particular science is competent either to solve metaphysical problems, or to judge their metaphysical solutions."

(Etienne Gilson, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience*, pp. 309-310).

## The Foundation of Truth: Tests for Truth



Etienne Gilson

Etienne Gilson

### THE UNITY OF PHILOSOPHICAL EXPERIENCE

*The Medieval Experiment  
The Cartesian Experiment  
The Modern Experiment*

IGNATIUS





## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

### The Laws of Logic

- A. The Law of Non-Contradiction
- B. The Law of Excluded Middle
- C. The Law of Identity

## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

### The Laws of Logic

#### A. The Law of Non-Contradiction

- A thing cannot be both 'A' and 'non-A' at the same time and in the same sense.
- A thing cannot both exist and not exist at the same time and in the same sense.
- A statement cannot be both true and not true at the same time and in the same sense.

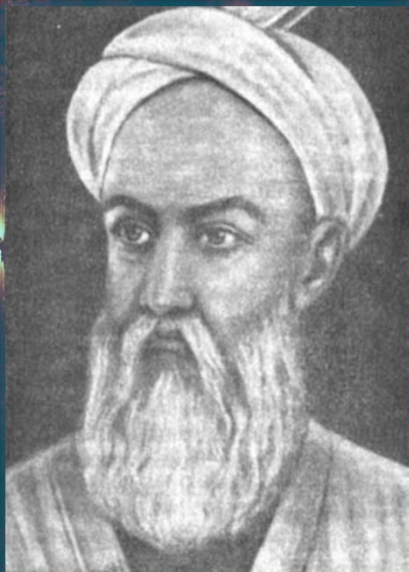




## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

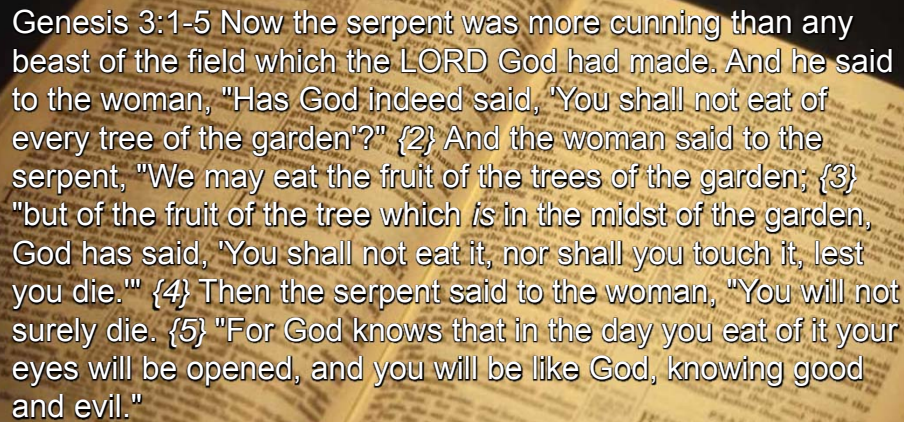
**Avicenna**

*Those who deny a first principle should be beaten and burned until they admit that to be beaten is not the same as to not be beaten and to be burned is not the same as not to be burned.*



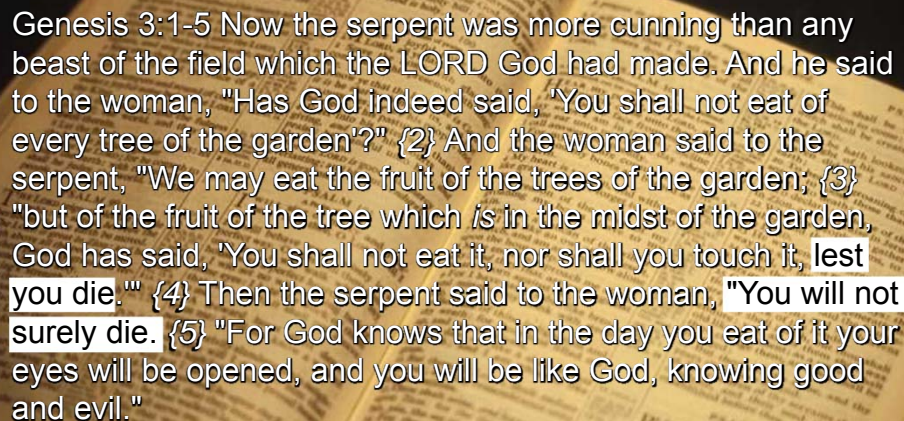
Metaphysics I

## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic



Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" {2} And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; {3} "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" {4} Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. {5} "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic



Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" {2} And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; {3} "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, **lest you die.**'" {4} Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.** {5} "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

### The laws of logic

#### B. The Law of Excluded Middle

- A thing is either 'A' or 'non-A.'
- A thing either exists or does not exist.
- A statement is either true or not true.

## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

Matthew 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit."

## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

### The laws of logic

#### C. The Law of Identity

- If a thing is 'A' then it is 'A.'
- If a thing exists then it exists.
- If a statement is true then it is true.

## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

Exodus 3:13-14 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"





## The Foundation of Logic: The Laws of Logic

The relationship of logic and reality.

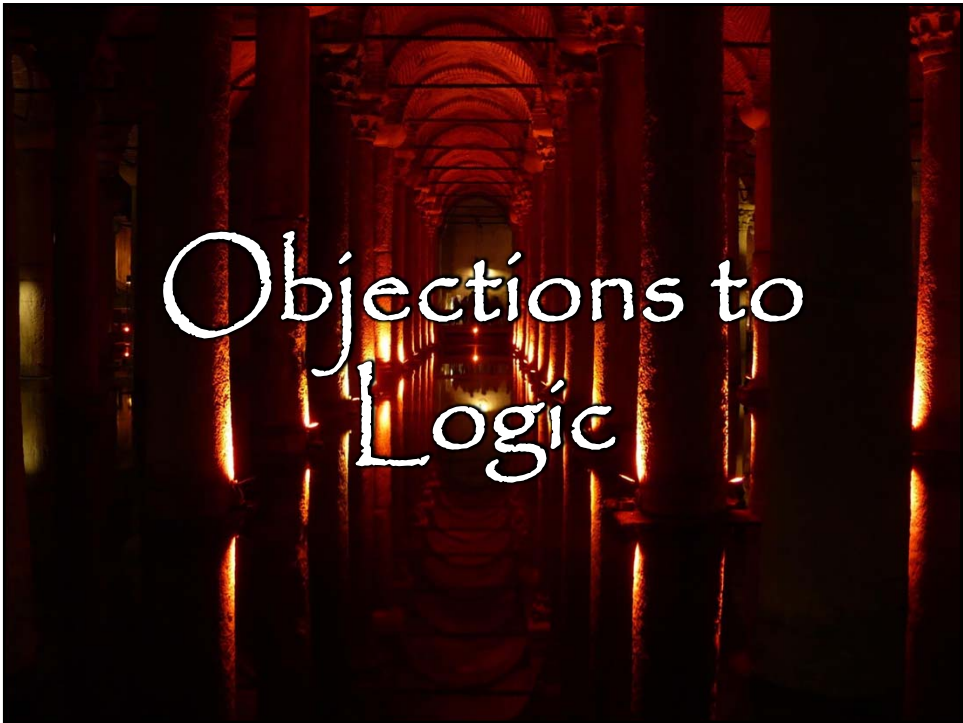
A. The laws of logic are undeniably true.

- ✓ One has to use logic to say that the laws of logic are not true.

B. Reality is knowable.

- ✓ If someone says that reality is unknowable, this is a knowledge claim about reality.

C. Tests for truth vary with the type of thing that is being proven.



## Objections to Logic

## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 1. What about Isaiah 55:8-9?

{8} "For **My** thoughts are not **your** thoughts, nor are **your** ways **My** ways," says the LORD. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **My** ways higher than **your** ways; and **My** thoughts than **your** thoughts."

## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 1. What about Isaiah 55:8-9?

Isa 55:6-9 {6} Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. {7} Let the **wicked forsake his way**, And the **unrighteous man his thoughts**; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

{8} "For **My** thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways **My** ways," says **the LORD**. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."



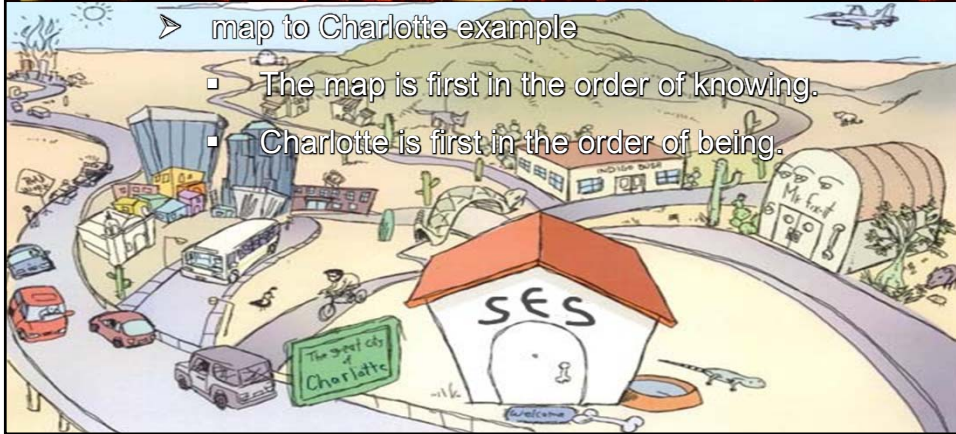
## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 2. It puts logic before God.

- response: There is a difference between "the order of knowing" and "the order of being"

- map to Charlotte example

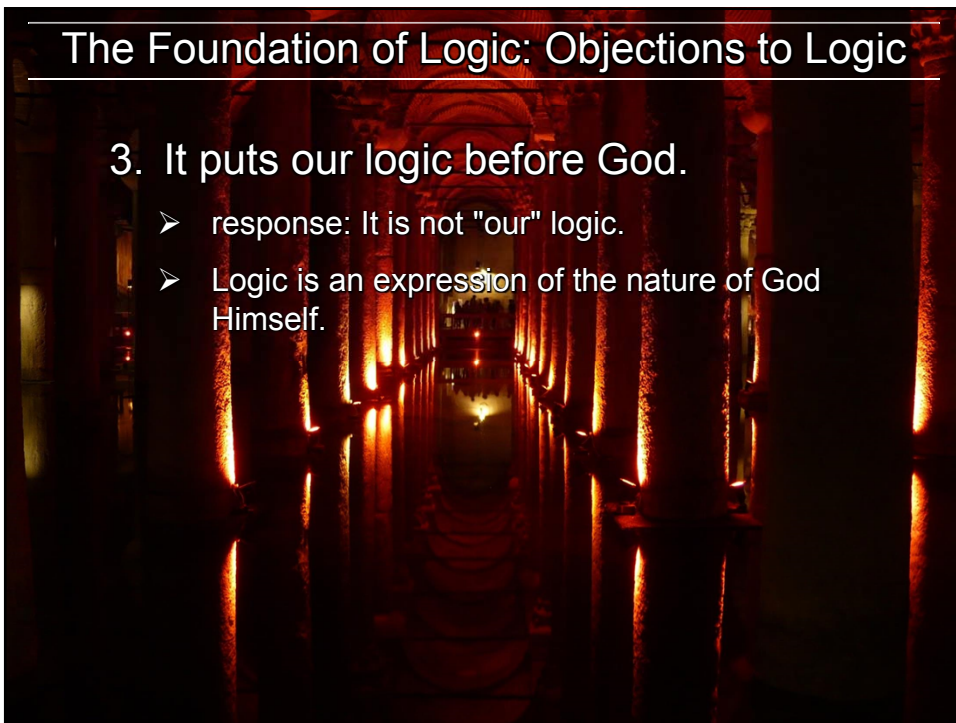
- The map is first in the order of knowing.
- Charlotte is first in the order of being.



## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 3. It puts our logic before God.

- response: It is not "our" logic.
- Logic is an expression of the nature of God Himself.



## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 4. It is a form of Rationalism.

- response: There is a difference between being rational and Rationalism.
- Rationalism is the view maintains that all knowledge is attainable by reason apart from the physical senses.
- However, the notions of self-evident truths or rationally inescapable truths do not constitute Rationalism. (e.g., Declaration of Independence)

## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 5. It limits God. Can't God do the impossible? Is there anything God cannot do?

- response: God cannot violate His own nature.
- Logic is an expression of the nature of God Himself.



## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 6. Can't God break the laws He creates?

- response: Logic was not created by God. It is an expression of God. (like goodness)

## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

### 7. Don't some doctrines involve contradictions, like the Trinity?

- response: There is nothing in the doctrine of the Trinity (or any other biblical doctrine) that is illogical.
- There is a difference between something being beyond reason and something being against reason.

## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

8. If logic is so helpful, how can such a great logician as the atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell be so far from the truth?

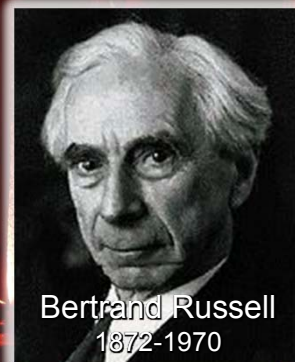
- response: If you start a race facing the wrong direction, then the faster you can run, the quicker you will be in getting farther from the finish line.

## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

11th August, 1918

It is quite true what you say, that you have never expressed yourself – but who has, that has anything to express? The things one says are all unsuccessful attempts to say something else – something that perhaps by its very nature cannot be said. I know that I have struggled all my life to say something that I never shall learn how to say. And it is the same with you. It is so with all who spend their lives in the quest of something elusive, and yet omnipresent, and at once subtle and infinite. One seeks it in music, and the sea, and sunsets; at times I have seemed very near it in crowds when I have been feeling strongly what they were feeling; one seeks it in love above all. But if one lets oneself imagine one has found it, some cruel irony is sure to come and show one that it is not really found. (I have come nearest to expressing myself in the chapter on Education in *Social Reconstruction*. But it is a very long way from a really full self-expression. You are hindered by timidity.)

The outcome is that one is a ghost, floating through the world without any real contact. Even when one feels nearest to other people, something in one seems obstinately to belong to God and to refuse to enter into any earthly communion – at least that is how I should express it if I thought there was a God. It is odd isn't it? I care passionately for this world, and many things and people in it, and yet . . . what is it all? There *must* be something more important, one feels, though I don't *believe* there is. I am haunted – some ghost, from some extramundane region, seems always trying to tell me something that I am to repeat to the world, but I cannot understand the message. But it is from listening to the ghost that one comes to feel oneself a ghost. I feel I shall find the truth on my deathbed and be surrounded by people too stupid to understand – fussing about medicines instead of searching





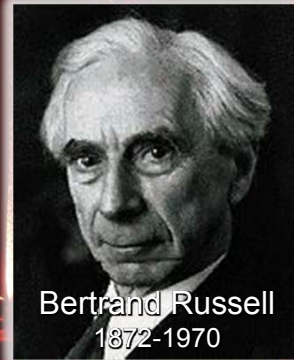
## The Foundation of Logic: Objections to Logic

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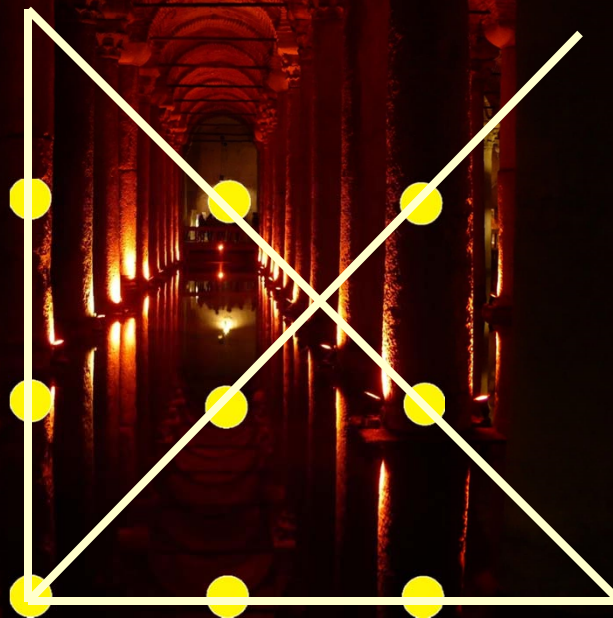


# Presuppositions

## The Foundation of Logic: Presuppositions

- The riddle of the surgeon's son
- "John and Marsha lie dead on the living room floor ..."
- Deutero-Isaiah
- The dots

## The Foundation of Logic: Presuppositions





# Self-Refuting Statements

## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements

### ACADEMIC ALERT

VOL. 9, NO. 1

(VP) Book Bulletin for Professors

SPRING 2000

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#### Providence, Prayer & Human Freedom

**T**he April issue/Variety Press published Terence  
Tutman's *Providence & Prayer: How Does God Work in the  
World?* Tutman is professor of theology and ethics at  
(quasi-secular) Providence Theological Seminary in  
Owensboro, Kentucky. We think the theme of this book is  
particularly timely given the current evangelical debate over  
the "openness" of God and John Sanders's recent work,  
*The God Who Risks: A Theology of Providence*.

Tutman's book is meant to help readers think through  
the issues by investigating one model of providence.  
Though he is not without his own—on several—propri-  
etary (and editorial) application of the biblical injunction not to  
muzzle a donkey, he is a very fair-minded, sympathetic  
and careful in his exposure of the views of others. We  
think his book—among its other uses—has great textbook  
potential. Reading IVP editor Don Reid pushed some  
questions to Tutman about the book and its development.

**REID:** Briefly stated, what is the problem posed by  
*Providence & Prayer*?

**TUTMAN:** Whether we need a job, an affair because we

are stranded in a dangerous part of the city, or want to be  
spared from a terrible bleeding wound, as we cannot volun-  
tarily ask God to assist us unless we know how able he is  
to do so. Prayer therefore raises the  
question of the nature of  
human freedom and the extent to  
which God may have placed limita-  
tions on his own freedom to act by  
creating free moral creatures or ex-  
isting "laws of nature." We face the  
question whether something good  
has happened and we want to thank  
God appropriately or when some-  
thing bad has happened and we need  
to decide how to face God into our  
assessment of the situation.

**REID:** How did the idea for this book originate?

**TUTMAN:** Through years of teaching theology in non-  
denominational schools, I have found the theology of many  
of my students to be rather eclectic. They often pray in  
ways which do not fit..... continued on page 2



Terence Tutman

#### TRUTH DECAY OR POSTMODERN TRUTH?

**I**n *Six* may be officially retired from IVP, but the old  
hand still often wanders the hallway looking for lunch  
partners (and someone he can postulate to) while also  
going on a date hand with a contemporary novel and then. The  
new the case with Douglas Groothuis's latest book *Truth  
Decay*, which has just been released. We asked Jim if it's  
right of this he would be willing to make a guest appearance in the

**Academic Alert** by engaging Doug in  
some conversation about things post-  
modern. We were delighted he readily  
took us up on the offer.

**SIRIS:** Doug, in *Truth Decay* you are  
problematic with leading postmodern  
thinkers but also with many folks close  
to us home. In what way do you think  
some evangelicals and other Christians  
have erred in their understanding or  
acceptance of postmodern thinking?

**GROOTHUIS:** Some evangelicals have identified the cor-  
respondence view of truth (a statement is true only if it agrees  
with or corresponds to that to which it refers) with the failed  
project of Enlightenment modernism—the view that  
autonomous reason is sufficient for philosophical and cultural

discerning. But the two are not the same. Modernism  
offered a purified view of reason as sufficient apart from rea-  
son. However, the correspondence view of truth is much  
older than modernism. It goes back to Aristotle. Plato said,  
most importantly, in the *Republic*. Without it we have no  
intelligible or rational order to present in the working  
world.

**SIRIS:** What does your book do that other evangelical books  
on postmodernism have not done? For example, Tim Olin's  
*After Modernity*... What? Dennis McCallum's *The Truth of  
Truth* and Gene Edward Veith Jr.'s *Postmodern Times*?

**GROOTHUIS:** I think my book is the first rigorous philo-  
sophical treatment of the postmodern view of truth offered  
from an evangelical perspective, which is largely negative on  
postmodernism. I believe the collapse of objective  
absolute and universal truth is irrational and leads to ethical  
and cultural decay. Without our understanding of truth decay,  
everything else decays as well.

**SIRIS:** Yet some forms of postmodern analysis seem to have  
lost their steam. I am thinking primarily of deconstruction in  
literary theory. Have other postmodern modes of analysis  
applied to, or lost their heat?..... continued on page 3



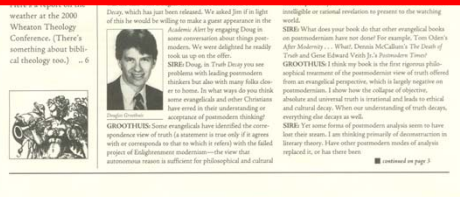
Douglas Groothuis

## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements

### ACADEMIC ALERT

**SIRE:** What does your book do that other evangelical books on postmodernism have not done? For example, Tom Oden's *After Modernity* . . . What?, Dennis McCallum's *The Death of Truth* and Gene Edward Veith Jr.'s *Postmodern Times*?

**GROOTHUIS:** I think my book is the first rigorous philosophical treatment of the postmodernist view of truth offered from an evangelical perspective, which is largely negative on postmodernism. I show how the collapse of objective, absolute and universal truth is irrational and leads to ethical and cultural decay. When our understanding of truth decays, everything else decays as well.



## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements

"We must get our hermeneutics (principles of biblical interpretation and understanding) from the Bible otherwise we're lost in relativism!"

(caller to radio talk show)





## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements



C. Behan McCullagh

*"First, scientists tell us that our perceptions are caused by things in the world stimulating our sense receptors ... This being so, our perceptions are best described as providing us with information about reality, but not necessarily mirroring it precisely. ..."*

## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements



C. Behan McCullagh

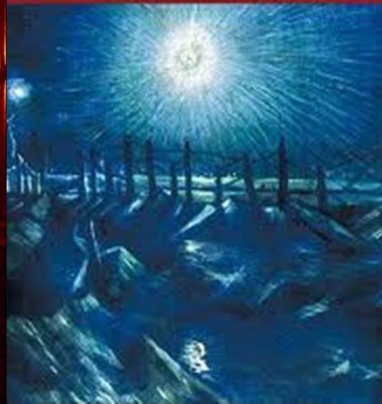
*"Second, our perceptions are influenced by our culture. ... So our perceptions of the world are not pure sense impressions of it. ..."*

## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements



C. Behan McCullagh

**"Finally, our perceptions are influenced by our needs, interests and desires. ..."**



## The Foundation of Logic: Self-Refuting Statements



C. Behan McCullagh

**"For these three reasons, at least, it is wrong to say that our perceptions simply correspond to the world." (p. 17)**





# The Foundation of Knowledge

## Establishing the Foundation of Theology

"Philosophical naturalism undertakes the responsibility for elaborating a comprehensive and coherent worldview based on experience, reason, and science, and for defending science's exclusive right to explore and theorize about all of reality."



*John Shook*

"The Need for Naturalism in a Scientific Age" [http://www.centerforinquiry.net/blogs/entry/the\\_need\\_for\\_naturalism\\_in\\_a\\_scientific\\_age/](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/blogs/entry/the_need_for_naturalism_in_a_scientific_age/), emphasis added.

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The Foundation  
of Morality



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

# The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, in such a case, would dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, we have suffered the longest continuance of a British yoke, which has been the cause of our present situation. But when a long train of abuses, premeditated and malicious, has evinced a design to reduce us to absolute Tyranny, it is our duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for our future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, that they have borne with a train of abuses and usurpations, which have assumed a design to reduce us to absolute Tyranny, under the pretence of benefiting us, a prudence dictated that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, we have suffered the longest continuance of a British yoke, which has been the cause of our present situation. But when a long train of abuses, premeditated and malicious, has evinced a design to reduce us to absolute Tyranny, it is our duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for our future security.

For the support of domestic manufactures, and for the encouragement of agriculture, we have petitioned for, and received laws from the British Parliament, to secure the rights of our trade and commerce. But the British Parliament has, in violation of the rights of the Colonies, passed laws, which have been the cause of our present situation. We have petitioned for, and received laws from the British Parliament, to secure the rights of our trade and commerce. But the British Parliament has, in violation of the rights of the Colonies, passed laws, which have been the cause of our present situation. We have petitioned for, and received laws from the British Parliament, to secure the rights of our trade and commerce. But the British Parliament has, in violation of the rights of the Colonies, passed laws, which have been the cause of our present situation.

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# The Foundation of Morality

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## Clarence Thomas and 'Natural Law'

By LAURENCE H. TRIBE  
Published: July 15, 1991

What is really at stake in the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court? While any candidate nominated to replace Justice Thurgood Marshall would likely accelerate the Court's rightward trend, Judge Thomas's adherence to "natural law" as a judicial philosophy could take the Court in an even more troubling direction.

Most conservatives criticize the judiciary for expanding its powers, "creating" rights rather than "interpreting" the Constitution. These critics talk of returning issues like abortion to democratically elected and politically accountable bodies.

Clarence Thomas, judging from his speeches and scholarly writings, seems instead to believe judges should enforce the Founders' natural law philosophy -- the inalienable rights "given man by his Creator" -- which he maintains is revealed most completely in the Declaration of Independence. He is the first Supreme Court justice in 50 years to

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## The Foundation of Morality



## The Foundation of Morality

### Biblical Morality or Morality?



## The Foundation of Morality



Edward Feser

"It is widely assumed that the analysis and justification of fundamental moral claims can be conducted without reference to at least the more contentious issues of metaphysics. Nothing could be further from the spirit of Thomas, for whom natural law ... is 'natural' precisely because it derives from human nature, conceived of in Aristotelian essentialist terms."

## The Foundation of Morality

### Natural Law Theory

*A 'nature' (or essence) is a metaphysical constituent of a thing in terms of which that thing is the kind of thing it is.*



The Foundation of Morality

## Natural Law Theory

As a living thing grows and matures, it does so, if unimpeded, towards its proper end or goal or *telos*.



The Foundation of Morality

## Natural Law Theory

What a thing's end or goal or *telos* is, is determined by its nature.





## Natural Law Theory

The 'natural' in Natural Law refers to the fact that human beings are what they are because we possess a human nature.

## Natural Law Theory

A human being's end, goal, or *telos* can be understood in terms of different aspects of his single reality, viz., his nutritive, (i.e., physical), his sentient (i.e., consciousness), and his rational.



## Natural Law Theory

To these three (Aristotelian) categories, Aquinas (as a Christian) recognizes the additional spiritual (eternal) aspect.

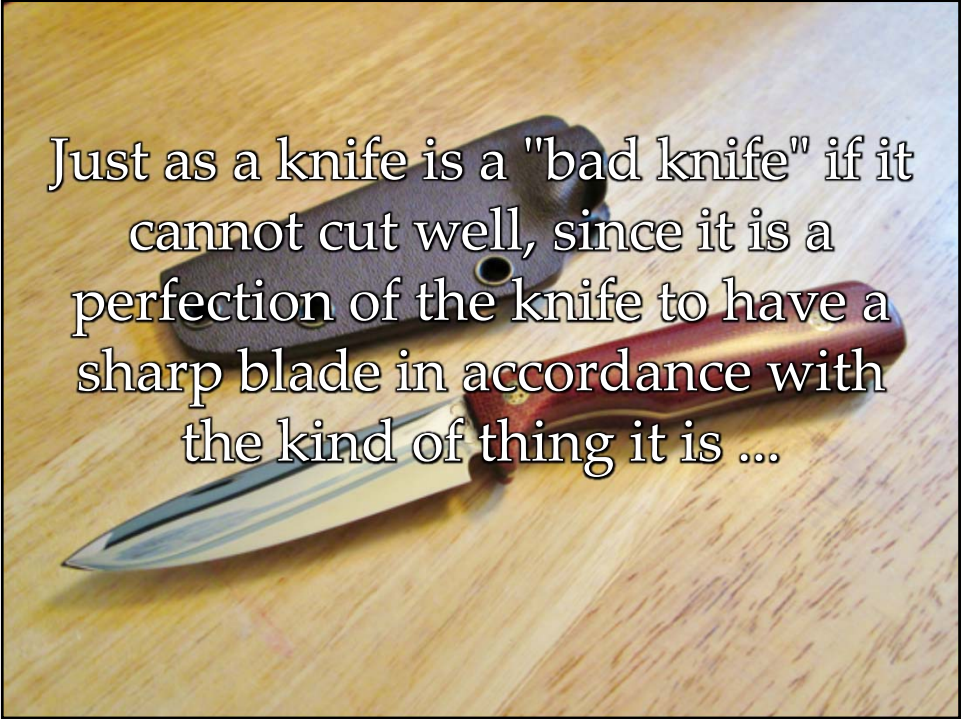
## Natural Law Theory

What is "good" for a thing is the actualization its potentialities according to the *telos* it has by virtue of its nature.

The Foundation of Morality

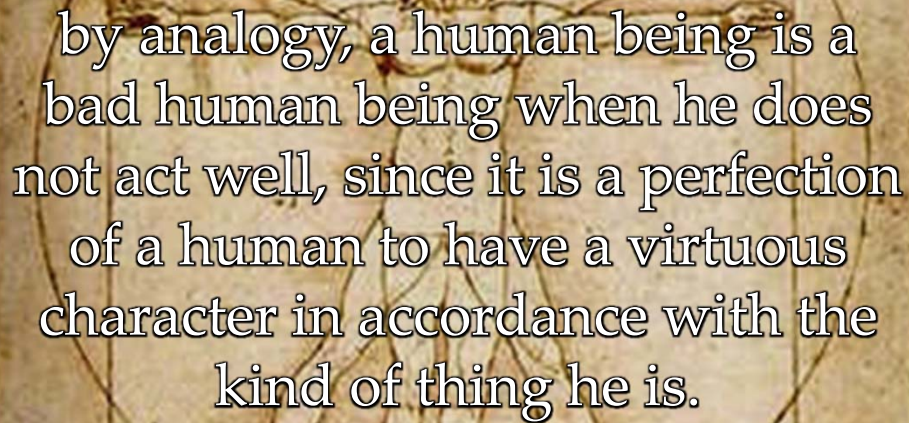
## Natural Law Theory

These actualizations are known as its perfections.

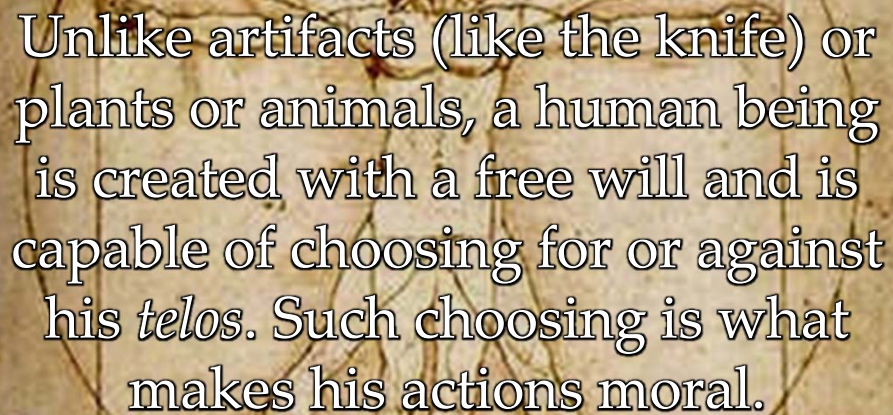


Just as a knife is a "bad knife" if it cannot cut well, since it is a perfection of the knife to have a sharp blade in accordance with the kind of thing it is ...



The background of the slide is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man drawing. It shows a male figure inscribed within a circle and a square, with arms and legs extended to the boundaries.

by analogy, a human being is a bad human being when he does not act well, since it is a perfection of a human to have a virtuous character in accordance with the kind of thing he is.

The background of the slide is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man drawing. It shows a male figure inscribed within a circle and a square, with arms and legs extended to the boundaries.

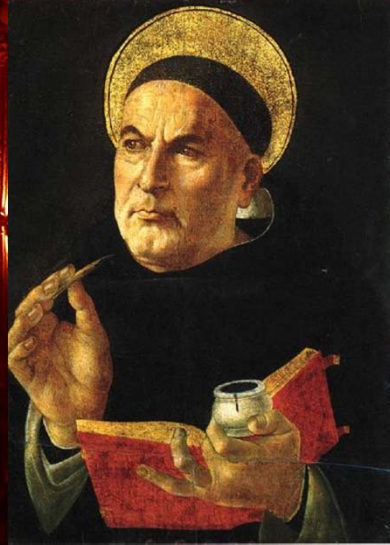
Unlike artifacts (like the knife) or plants or animals, a human being is created with a free will and is capable of choosing for or against his *telos*. Such choosing is what makes his actions moral.

## The Foundation of Morality

### The Natural Law Ethics of Thomas Aquinas

#### I. Eternal law

- A. God's providential working of the universe
- B. the plan by which God governs creation

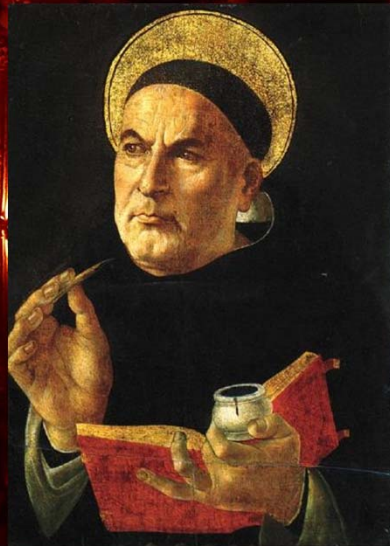


## The Foundation of Morality

### The Natural Law Ethics of Thomas Aquinas

#### II. Natural Law

- A. the participation in Eternal Law by rational creatures by virtue of being rational
- B. that aspect of the eternal law whereby the Creator governs and guides the moral actions of humans such that, when obeyed, it leads humans to their proper end
- C. discoverable by reason



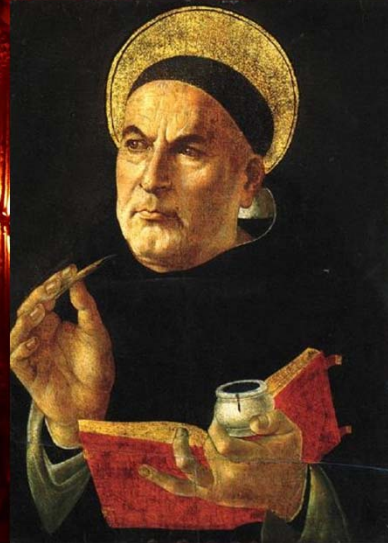


## The Foundation of Morality

### The Natural Law Ethics of Thomas Aquinas

#### III. Human Law

- A. a particular application of natural law to local communities
- B. the "court of appeal" regarding moral disputes

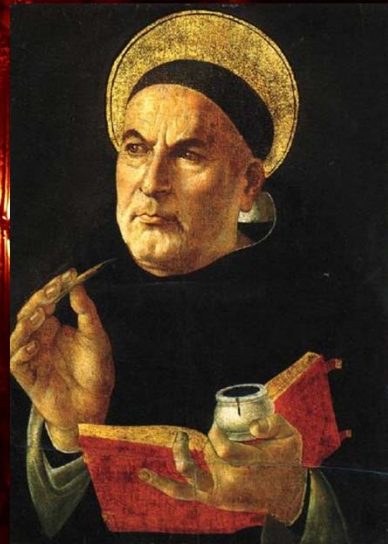


## The Foundation of Morality

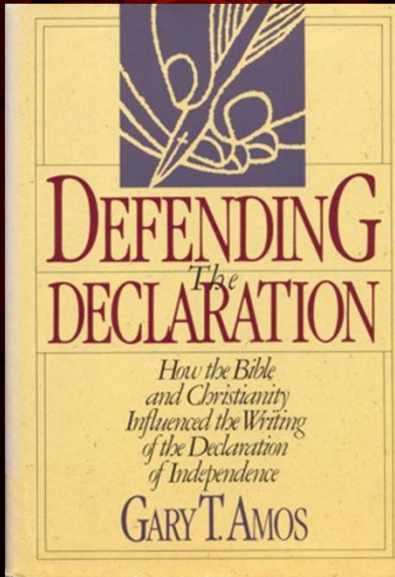
### The Natural Law Ethics of Thomas Aquinas

#### IV. Divine Law

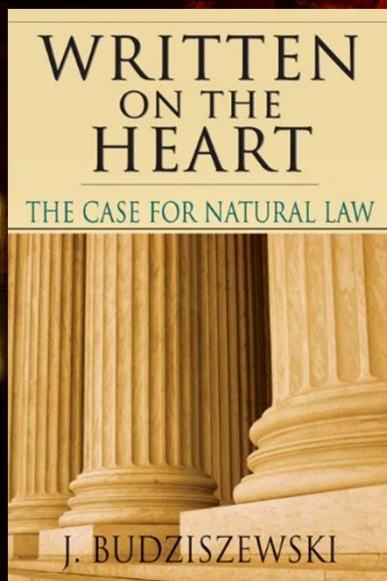
- A. the revelation of God's law through Scripture to believers
- B. usually not possible to impose these laws on society in general



## The Foundation of Morality

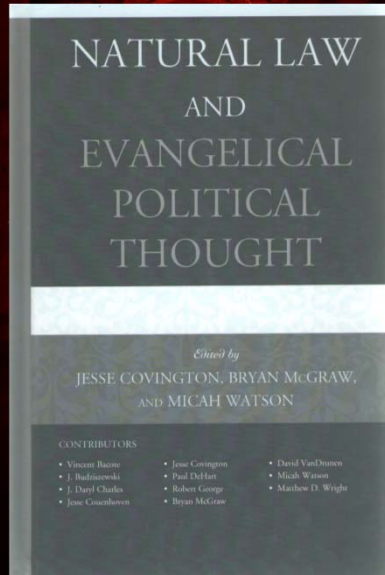


## The Foundation of Morality





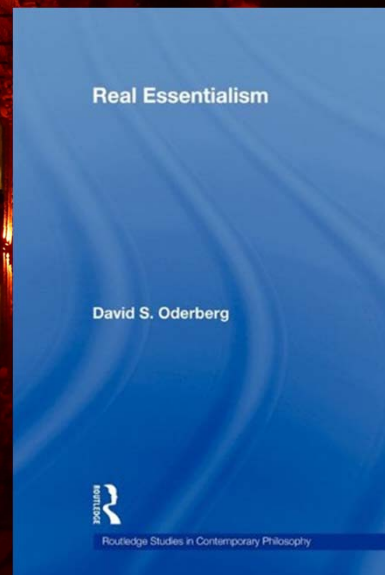
## The Foundation of Morality

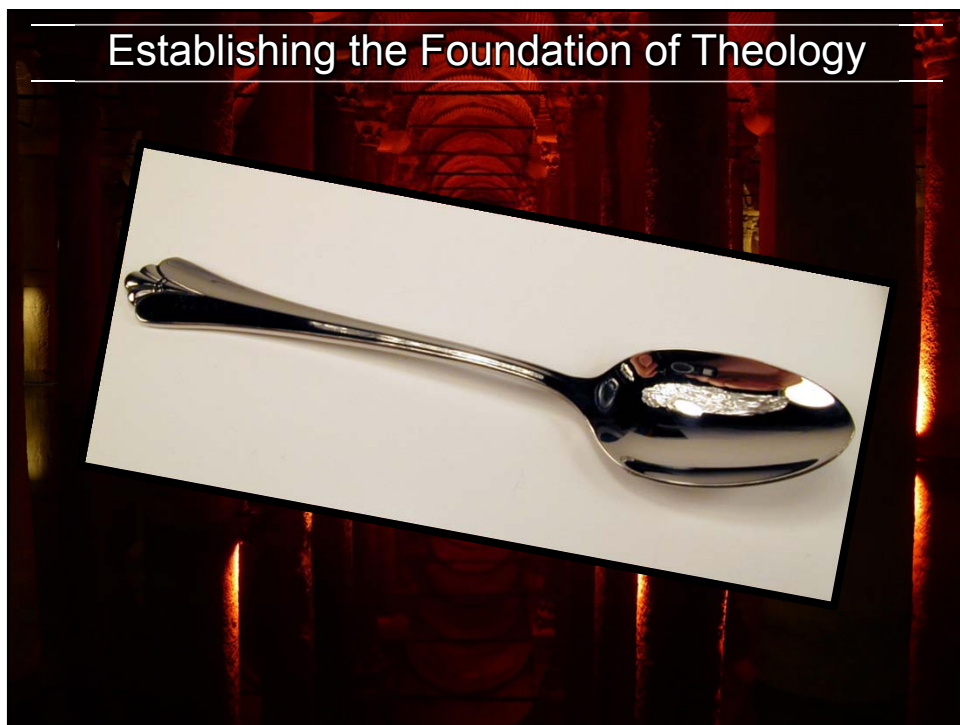


## The Foundation of Morality



David S. Oderberg







## Establishing the Foundation of Theology



## Establishing the Foundation of Theology



David S. Oderberg

### Real Essentialism

David S. Oderberg



Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy

# The Foundation of God

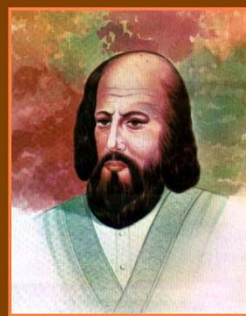
## Establishing the Foundation of Theology

### The Infinite Regress Argument of al-Ghāzālī

*P1: Everything that begins to exist  
requires a cause for its origin.*

*P2: The world began to exist.*

*C1: Therefore, the world has a  
cause for its origin: its Creator.*



al-Ghāzālī  
(1058-1111)



## Establishing the Foundation of Theology

### The Modern Kalam Cosmological Argument of William Lane Craig

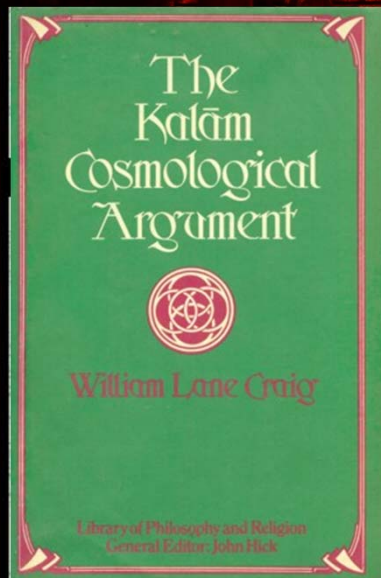
*P1: The Universe began to exist.*

*P2: Whatever begins to exist has a  
cause of its existence.*

*C1: Therefore, the universe has a  
cause of its existence.*



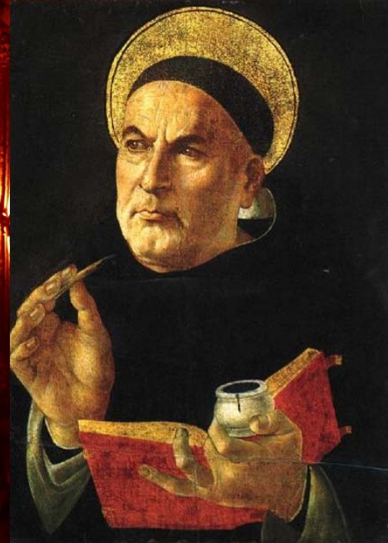
## Establishing the Foundation of Theology



## Establishing the Foundation of Theology

### The "Five Ways" of Thomas Aquinas

- *Argument from Motion*
- *Argument from Efficient Causality*
- *Argument from Necessary Being*
- *Argument from Degrees of Perfection*
- *Argument from the Governance of the World*



## Establishing the Foundation of Theology



Edward Feser  
Associate Professor of  
Philosophy, Pasadena City  
College, Pasadena CA

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EDWARD FESER