

ARMING APOLOGISTS #7: FIRST ACT OF THE MIND



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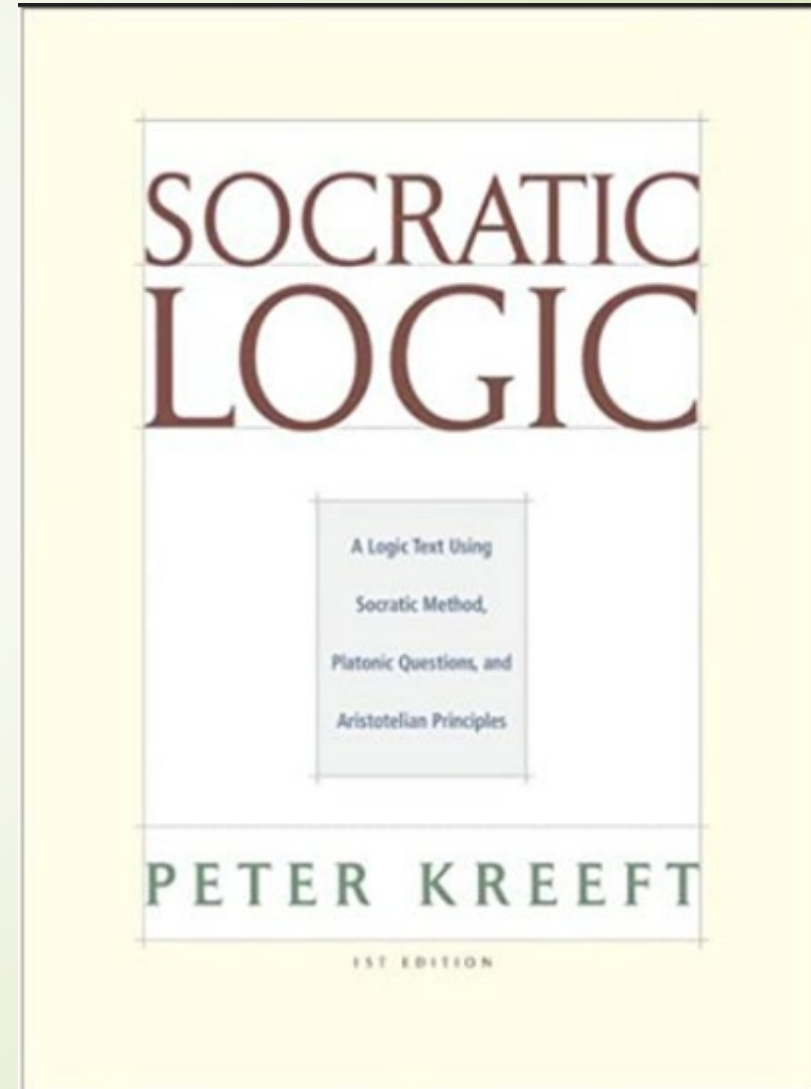


COURSE OUTLINE

- Online Update
- Questions?
- MAXIM: Establish Truth Review
- General Observations on Logic
- First Act of the Mind

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Southern Evangelical Seminary
 - Dr. Norman Geisler, et al
- *Socratic Logic: A Logic Text Using Socratic Method, Platonic Questions, and Aristotelian Principles*
 - Dr. Peter Kreeft





MAXIM: ESTABLISH TRUTH

- Philosophical Apologetics
 - Defending Sound Philosophy (Way of Thinking)
- Tenets of Truth
 - Correlation to Reality
 - Exclusive Nature
 - Absolute Standard
- Law of Non-Contradiction



MIRACLES: DEMONSTRATE THEISM

- Theistic Apologetics
 - Defend the Existence of God
 - Psalm 14:1_Fool says No God
 - Romans 1:21_Futile Thinking
- Classical Apologetics
 - Cosmological Argument
 - Teleological Argument
 - Moral Argument



MIRACLES: DEMONSTRATE THEISM

- Philosophical Consistency Required
- Thinking Logically
- Logic Disclaimer
- Common Sensical
- Logic vs Language



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Logical Thinking
 - House Building (bricks)
- Understanding
 - Simple Apprehension
- Humans vs Animals vs CPU
 - Questioning Ability
 - What is it?



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Essential Comprehension
 - Concept
 - Term
 - Word



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Concept

- “The act of understanding, or ‘simple apprehension’...produces in our mind a *concept*...we do not merely understand *concepts*, we understand *reality* by means of concepts.”

- Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p 36



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Concepts are:
 - ▶ Spiritual i.e. immaterial
 - ▶ Jumbo Jet
 - ▶ Abstract
 - ▶ Flower Examination
 - ▶ Universal
 - ▶ Tree



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Concepts are:
 - ▶ Necessary Relationships between Concepts
 - ▶ Tree leaves, trunk, roots, etc.
 - ▶ Triangle
 - ▶ Unchanging
 - ▶ Blue Sky



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Concepts Key Takeaways:
 - ▶ Private
 - ▶ Universal
- ▶ Conceptual Exercise
 - ▶ Close Eyes
 - ▶ House



Conceptual Exercise

- Close Eyes
- House
 - Immaterial
 - Abstract
 - Universal
 - Necessary Relations
 - Unchanging



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Term

- “*A term is the most simple and basic unit of meaning. A term is simply any word or group of words that denotes an object of thought.*”

 - Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p 41

- Answer – “What it is?”

- Reveal – “What a thing is” (Reality)



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Terms should be:

- Unambiguous

- Ambiguous – more than one meaning

- Used Ambiguously

- Hidden Ambiguity

- “Defining a term is the way to heal the disease of ambiguity.”

- Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p47



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Terms should be:
 - ▶ Clear
 - ▶ Window Analogy
 - ▶ Mind Dependent
 - ▶ Necessary Criteria for Certainty
 - ▶ “Judy” “Maddog” “RTB” “Miller Time”



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Terms can be:
 - ▶ Exact or Vague
 - ▶ Tall vs 5' 10"
 - ▶ Looks short stands tall
 - ▶ Context determines necessity
 - ▶ Carpenter vs Mr. Fix It

FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Terms can be:
 - ▶ Univocal, Equivocal, or Analogical
 - ▶ Univocal – One meaning
 - ▶ “Ate”
 - ▶ Equivocal – multiple, unrelated meanings
 - ▶ “Bat”
 - ▶ Analogical – multiple, similar related meanings
 - ▶ Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p 48



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Technically speaking, Terms **are not**:
 - ▶ Univocal, Equivocal, or Analogical
- ▶ Terms are simply **used**:
 - ▶ Univocally, Equivocally, or Analogically



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Eight more characteristics of terms
- Terms Key Takeaways:
 - Basic unit of meaning
 - Terms reveal what a thing is
 - Should be defined to ensure clarity
 - ***Can only be clear or unclear (ambiguity)***
 - Terms cannot be true/false or valid/invalid



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

➤ A term can only be...

➤ *clear or unclear*

➤ *clear or unclear*

➤ *clear or unclear*

➤ *clear or unclear*



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Word

- “A word is physical and sensible (to the eyes or the ears, or to the touch, in Braille). A concept is not. A term mediates between a concept and a word, insofar as it is a unit of meaning, it is not something made of matter or perceivable with the senses.”

- Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p 41



FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- ▶ Word Key Takeaways:
 - ▶ Linguistic expression of a term
 - ▶ Language
 - ▶ “Love” “Agape” “אַהֲבָה”
 - ▶ “Languages are manmade, conventional, and changeable. Terms are not.”
 - ▶ Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p40



ENDING EXHORTATION

“Defining a term is the way to heal the disease of ambiguity.”

➤ Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p47



QUESTIONS?

- 2nd Book Order
 - *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be An Atheist*
 - Regular Attenders
- 33 to go
- Thank you

ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 7:

FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

How are logic and language different? _____

What is the first act of the mind? _____

What is a concept? _____

Concepts are: 1- _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

4 - _____

5 - _____

What are the two key takeaways from concepts? _____

What is a term? And what does it reveal? _____

Terms are: 1- _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

4 - _____

What is the single most important takeaway about terms? _____

How are terms different from words? _____

ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 7: FIRST ACT OF THE MIND HOMEWORK

Reread Chapter 1-2 of *Twelve Steps* _____

1. What terms do you notice in everyday life need to be defined in order to prevent confusion?

2. Can you think of a term that would enable you to illustrate the importance of definitions for your future apologetic endeavors? _____

3. Is it important to understand the difference between terms, concepts, and words? _____

4. Memory Work:

Rewrite the following:

Maxim: Establish Truth

Miracles: Demonstrate Theism

Message: Proclaim Trinitarianism

Notecards:

1 – God with Us / Matthew 1:23

2 – A term can be ... / Clear or unclear

3 – Defining a term is the way to heal the disease of ambiguity
