

APOLOGETICS

BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER

Critical Thinking – Part 2

Series objective and agenda

Address intellectual doubts about a variety of topics.

- Is the Bible God's word?
- Critical thinking
- Questions about God and creation
- Questions about Jesus
- Cultural issues

Slide 2

DW3 Without critical thinking skills, Christians may lose their faith over something that isn't true
Dennis Wade, 6/20/2018

Tonight's Objectives

- Build on CT part 1.
- Consider the need for CT and tools that may help.

Tonight's Agenda

- Bridge CT part 1 and CT part 2
- Fake news and fallacies
- CT tools

APOLOGETICS

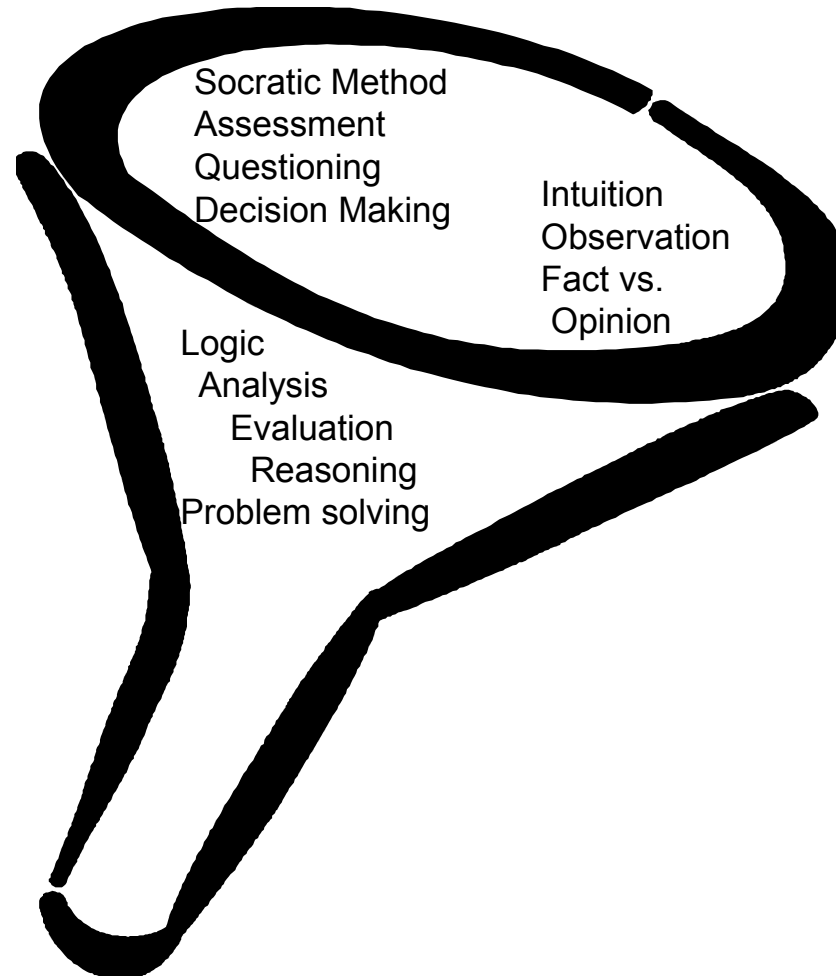
BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER

Bridge Between Part 1 & Part 2

Definition

- Definition: The objective analysis and evaluation of a topic or an issue in order to form a judgment.
- Value:
 - It confirms that truth is objective, not subjective or relative
 - Emphasis in school in the last five years indicates there is a huge need in our country
 - What I've seen in CT classes

Encompassing



- Analysis & Evaluation
- Reasoning
- Decision making

A Biblical Topic

- *Krites* meaning “a judge”
 - God appears over and over as a judge in the Bible
 - Gen 18:25, Rom 2:6, 1 Cor 4:4-5, Heb 10:30
- Forms: *krima krivo krisis* and others
- *Kritikos* meaning “able to judge (or discern)”
 - Appears once in Hebrews 4:12

A Scriptural Activity

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
--1 John 4:1

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**
--Acts 17:11 (also v. 2, 17)

But **test everything**; hold fast to what is good.

--1 Thess. 5:21

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Fake News & Fallacies

Lack of Discernment

- In November 2016, Stanford University researchers made an alarming discovery: across the US, many students can't tell the difference between a reported news article, a persuasive opinion piece, and a corporate ad. This lack of media literacy makes young people vulnerable to getting duped by "fake news," which can have real consequences.

Source: NPR.org

Seven Questions Toward Discernment

- Ask the following questions when reading a news story:
 - Who wrote it?
 - What claims does it make?
 - Do they seem incredible?
 - When was it published?
 - Is the story on another major media outlet?
 - Does it contain spelling or grammar errors?
 - Is it fallacious?



NBC News @NBCNews · 17h

7.2K 13K

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Fallacies - Errors in reasoning/argumentation

- They get in the way of pursuing the truth
- Common fallacies
 - Making it personal (ad hominem=to the man)
 - Slippery slope
 - Genetic fallacy
 - Begging the question
 - Equivocation
 - Straw man
 - False dichotomy

Fallacies – Making it personal (ad hominem)

- Attacking the person instead of the argument
- Example
 - Susan: I believe that macro-evolution is not true for the reasons I have previously listed.
Betty: You believe macro-evolution is wrong because you're a Christian.
Susan: Not exactly. I believe macro-evolution is wrong based on a lack of scientific evidence as well as the book of Genesis.
Betty: That's just the problem. You're a Bible-thumping Christian literalist and are supposed to believe it is wrong. This means you aren't objective so I can't trust what you say is being rational.
- Sometimes Christians are guilty of this too
 - Key words in apologetic passages: gentle, kind, patient, reverent
 - The ultimate apologetic: John 17:21
 - Be Christ-like, “so that all men may believe that you sent me.”

Fallacies – Slippery slope

- Just because people do one thing, they will eventually do something else.
- Example
 - Susan: Christians who believe in old earth instead of young earth will eventually lose their faith.
Betty: Why do you say that?
Susan: Most people who fall away, first started believing things that aren't in the Bible.
- Don't make statements you can't support with facts.
- Sometimes, it's good to listen to a concerned person.

Fallacies – Genetic

- Stating that an argument is valid or invalid because of who originated it or presented it
- Example
 - Susan: I believe that macro-evolution is not true for the reasons I have previously listed.
Betty: You believe macro-evolution is wrong because you're a Christian.
Susan: Not exactly. I believe macro-evolution is wrong based on a lack of scientific evidence as well as the book of Genesis.
Betty: You're not qualified to speak about scientific evidence because you're a Christian—and living in a conservative town.
- Sometimes Christians are guilty of this too
 - “Your argument from scripture isn't true because you don't believe the Bible is God's word.”

Fallacies – Begging the question

- Assuming the thing to be true that you're trying to prove.
- Example
 - Andy: I do not believe the Bible is true.
Chris: Well, I believe it is true.
Andy: Why do you believe it?
Chris: I believe it is true because the Bible says it is from God.
- This fallacy is often related to another fallacy: circular reasoning
- Find out what people will accept as an authority and work from there.

Fallacies – Appeal to Emotion

- When people act on emotions rather than logic; the issue is oversimplified
- Example
 - Andy: I believe that birds evolved from dinosaurs.
Chris: I believe that God created them separately.
Andy: My Dad believes they evolved. Are you saying my Dad is a liar?
Chris: Do you have evidence to support that claim?
Andy: I can't believe you are calling my Dad a liar!
- It's best to create some distance and revisit if appropriate.

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Critical Thinking Tools

Great tools

- Books
 - Critical Thinking: An Introduction, Alec Fisher
 - Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide, Tracy Powell
 - Romans, I John
- Websites
 - <https://www.carm.org/>
 - <https://crossexamined.org/christian-apologetics/>
 - <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/>
- Debates
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tYm41hb48o> (Craig & Hichens)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngjQs_QjSwc (Hichens & Hichens)

More great tools

- Thinking maps

- Evaluating something written
- Thinking critically in the moment -
<http://schools.carm.org/amember/files/thinking/>

- Grid analysis

- Analyzing several options by considering several criteria

Thinking Map

- A tool for “weighing up” arguments
 - Do the arguments support the position, recommendation or conclusion?
- Two main parts
 - Analysis
 - Four steps toward understanding
 - Evaluation
 - Three steps toward deciding



SKILLFUL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
OF ARGUMENTS
(WHAT PEOPLE SAY OR WRITE)

**Thinking
Map**

Analysis (Understanding)

1. What are the main positions, recommendations, or conclusions
2. What are the reasons (data, evidence)?
3. What is assumed?
4. What needs to be clarified (terms, claims or arguments)?

Evaluation (Deciding)

5. Are the reasons acceptable?
6. Does the reasoning support the conclusions?
7. What is your overall evaluation (in the light of steps 1 through 6)?



Steps 1-4

- What is the conclusion?
- What are the reasons?
- What is assumed?
- What needs to be clarified?



What does it mean to be human?

- Human Evolution Research
- Human Evolution Evidence
- Human Characteristics
- Education
- Exhibit
- About Us
- Multimedia

Home » Human Evolution Evidence » Human Fossils » Species » Australopithecus afarensis

Australopithecus afarensis

Behavior

Human Fossils

Species

Australopithecus
afarensis

Fossils

Mystery Skull Interactive

3D Collection

Australopithecus afarensis

Nickname: Lucy's species

Where Lived: Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania)

When Lived: Between about 3.85 and 2.95 million years ago



Australopithecus afarensis is one of the longest-lived and best-known early human species – paleoanthropologists have uncovered remains from more than 300 individuals! Found between 3.85 and 2.95 million years ago in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania), this species survived for more than 900,000 years, which is over four times as long as our own



tralopithecus afarensis

└ southern ┬ ape ┬ from Afar

▶ | 🔊 5:24 / 11:00

CC HD

William H. Kimbel* and Lucas K. Delezene

*Institute of Human Origins, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona
Tempe, AZ 85287-4101*

Decades of

Digging =

Fewer than

400 bone pieces

▶ ▶| 🔊 5:42 / 11:00



Step 5

- **Are the reasons acceptable**
 - How certain is it claimed to be?
 - Is it widely known or believed?
 - Does it require expertise or research to decide?
 - Is it from a credible source?

Richard Leakey

- Leakey, along with several investigators have now concluded that two or perhaps three species have been wrongly combined in "Lucy."
- She was not a human ancestor.
- At best, she was a form of extinct ape; at worst, she was a mosaic.

-Dr. John Morris, *Was Lucy an Ape-man?*, 1989

Donald Johanson

“There is no such thing as a total lack of bias. I have it; everybody has it. The fossil hunter in the field has it.... In everybody who is looking for hominids...You begin straining your eyes to find *Homo* traits in fossils of that age...I was trying to jam evidence of dates into a pattern that would support conclusions about fossils which, on closer inspection, the fossils themselves would not sustain. It is hard for me now to admit how tangled in that thicket I was. But the insidious thing about bias is that it does make one deaf to the cries of other evidence.” (Johanson and Edey, 1981, pp. 257,258, 277).

Step 6 – Balance of Probabilities

Lucy was a bipedal ancestor of humans.

Pros

- Source: SI.EDU
- Uncovered fossils of > 300 individuals
- Many papers published
- Ape & human characteristics

Lucy was an ape or a mosaic (> 1 species combined).

Pros

- Source: books by reputable scientists (mostly evolutionists).
- 400 pieces of bone, mostly teeth
- Baboon vertebrae
- Pelvis broken apart, sawn, & fused together
- Credible detractors: Leakey, Walker, Stern, Susman