

“CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS” LOGICAL FALLACIES EXPOSED

INTRODUCTION

A logical fallacy is a flaw in reasoning which undermines the argument's validity (2nd Corinthians 10:5).

1. STRAW MAN

Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack (Mark 14:58; John 2:19-22).

2. FALSE CAUSE

Presuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other. Correlation is not causation (Luke 13:1-5).

3. AD HOMINEM

Attacking your opponent's character or personal traits instead of engaging with their argument (John 7:20; 8:48, 52).

4. LOADED QUESTION

Asking a question that has an assumption built into it so that it can't be answered without appearing guilty (Matthew 22:17-22).

5. BANDWAGON

Appealing to popularity or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation (Matthew 7:13-14).

6. APPEAL TO AUTHORITY

Using the opinion or position of an authority figure, or institution of authority, in place of an actual argument ([Matthew 15:2](#)).

7. APPEAL TO EMOTION

Manipulating an emotional response in place of a valid or compelling argument ([Acts 19:23-28](#); [Genesis 19:9](#)).

8. PERSONAL INCRECULITY

Saying that because one finds something difficult to understand that it's therefore not true ([John 20:25](#); [Matthew 16:1-4](#)).

9. GENETIC

Judging something good or bad on the basis of where it comes from, or from whom it comes ([John 1:46](#)).

10. FALSE DICHOTOMY

Where two alternative states are presented as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist ([John 9:2](#)).

11. THE TEXAS SHARPSHOOTER

Cherry-picking data clusters to suit an argument, or finding a pattern to fit a presumption ([John 7:52](#) ([Micah 1:1](#); [1st Kings 17:1](#); [2nd Kings 14:25](#))).

12. MIDDLE GROUND

Saying that a compromise, or middle point, between two extremes is the truth ([1st Kings 18:21](#); [Luke 11:23](#)).

CONCLUSION

Truth demands an honest defense ([Proverbs 13:16](#); [Titus 2:6-8](#)).