

Introduction:

- ❖ Last time we met, we talked about supported statements and the relationship between statements. One of the relationships we looked at was Consistency. Today we want to look closer at consistency and how statements can be at odds with other statements, (i.e. inconsistent)
 - Acts 13:44-47 – they contradicted the truth.
 - 2 Tim 2:24-26 – set themselves in opposition to the truth.
- ❖ “Sometimes the consistency of statements is difficult to determine. Two statements may appear to be inconsistent but, upon close examination, they turn out to be consistent. When there appears to be inconsistency, we have a **disagreement**. There are three kinds of disagreements that concern us here.” ¹

3 Kinds of Disagreements

- ❖ **Real Disagreements** – This is an actual inconsistency. Both statements cannot be true at the same time.

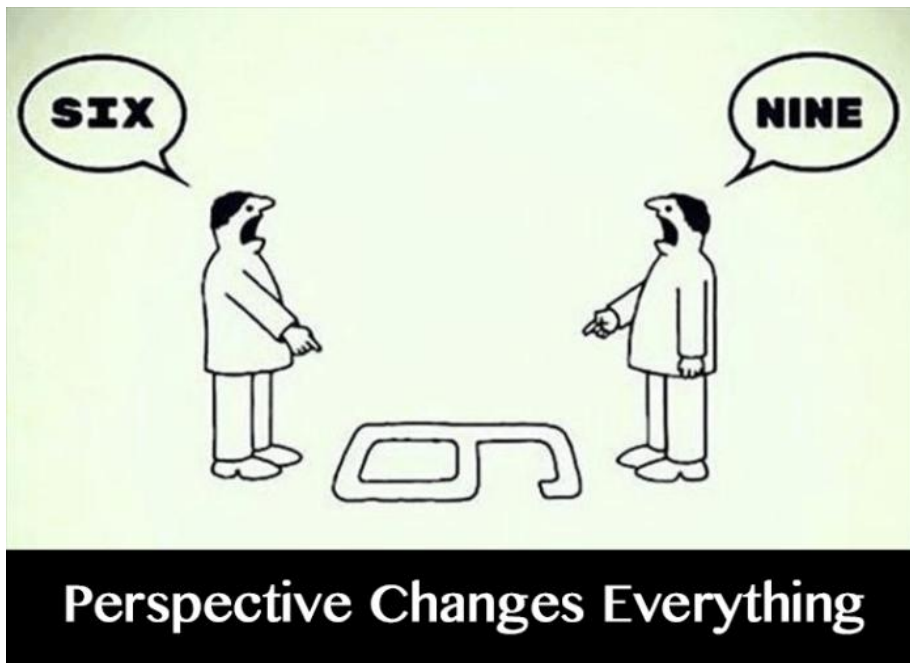
¹ Introductory Logic pg 77

Between these two statements there is real disagreement. Jesus cannot be both the Son of God and not the Son of God. A real disagreement is an actual inconsistency between two statements. They cannot both be true at the same time.²

- ❖ **Apparent disagreement.** – Apparent disagreements are frequently the result of differences of opinion or perception.

Of course there is no true disagreement here. Both statements are self-reports, and both can therefore be taken as true without contradiction: it can be true that Smith thinks logic is easy at the same time that Jones thinks logic is hard. There is a difference of opinion, but there is no logical contradiction. An apparent disagreement is a difference of opinion or perception.

² Pg77



- ❖ Far from making the point that many post-modernists wish to illustrate here, this popular meme shows a logical disagreement. Each man is presented with data to which he has implicit bias towards. Each man believes he knows the truth of this character on the ground. Each makes a statement which has truth value. Each statement is a supported statement.
 - Can both be correct?
 - Can both be wrong?
 - Does them disagreeing mean there is no right answer?
 - What way(s) could we possibly approach this disagreement to see what the truth is?

- ❖ **Verbal disagreement** – When different definitions are used for the same words (that is, when words are vague or ambiguous), verbal disagreements can result. This does not necessarily mean that there is true inconsistency.³

³ Pg 77

This difference between Murphy and Johnson certainly looks like an inconsistency. But the key question here concerns the possible definitions of the word 'illiterate'. Suppose Murphy intends the word to mean those who cannot read at all, and Johnson means those who cannot read past a 2nd grade level. A verbal disagreement is a misunderstanding due to differing definitions for one or more words.

❖ What is the difference between real and apparent disagreements?

- In logic, a disagreement arises when two or more people hold conflicting views or beliefs about a particular issue. The distinction between real and apparent disagreements is crucial for effective communication and debate.⁴

Real Disagreements (Genuine Disputes):

- Definition: These occur when individuals genuinely hold incompatible beliefs about a proposition or argument
- Nature: There is a genuine clash of opinions about whether a statement is true or false, or whether an argument is logically valid and sound.
- Resolution: Resolving real disagreements often involves presenting new evidence, re-evaluating existing evidence, or utilizing different types of logical reasoning (deductive, inductive, abductive⁵) to analyze the facts and arguments.

Apparent Disagreements (Merely Verbal Disputes):

- Definition: These occur when two or more people seem to disagree, but the disagreement is not real, often stemming from ambiguous language or differing interpretations of terms.

⁴ This section is from Google AI

⁵ Abductive logic, also known as abductive reasoning or abduction, is a form of logical inference that starts with an observation or set of observations and seeks the simplest and most likely conclusion or explanation for those observations. It is often referred to as "inference to the best explanation". – Google AI

- Nature: The individuals are essentially "talking past each other" because they are using the same words but with different meanings. Once the misunderstanding is revealed, the apparent disagreement should disappear.
- Resolution: Apparent disagreements can be resolved by clarifying the meaning of ambiguous terms, ensuring that all parties are using the same words with the same intended meaning. This often involves engaging in what is called a "merely verbal dispute."

Key Differences Summarized:

Feature	Real Disagreement	Apparent Disagreement (Merely Verbal Dispute)
Nature	Genuine clash of beliefs/opinions about a proposition or argument.	Disagreement arises from ambiguous language or differing interpretations of terms.
Foundation	Rooted in different factual understandings, logical reasoning, or value systems.	Rooted in a misunderstanding of language or the specific meanings of words/phrases.
Resolution	Requires evidence, re-evaluation of reasoning, or alternative logical approaches.	Can be resolved by clarifying the meaning of terms and ensuring clear communication.
"Talking Past"	The individuals are engaging with the same topic, but have different conclusions.	The individuals are "talking past each other" because they are using language differently.

In essence, the crucial distinction lies in whether the conflicting views are based on a genuine difference in understanding or a misunderstanding of language. Identifying whether a disagreement is real or merely apparent is a key step in resolving conflicts and ensuring productive discussions.

UNIT TWO: STATEMENTS

Exercise 10 (12 points)

Give examples of the three types of disagreements. (Even though the names are historical, your answers need not be.)

Real disagreement

1. Luther: _____
Erasmus: _____
2. Lee: _____
Grant: _____

Apparent disagreement

3. Peter: _____
Paul: _____
4. Homer: _____
Virgil: _____

Verbal disagreement (circle the word being defined differently)

5. William: _____
Robert: _____
6. Write two statements that are consistent but not independent.

