

List of First Principle Biblical References

WHAT IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF LOGIC?

The first principle of all knowledge is the law of noncontradiction. **This foundational first principle of logic states that opposite claims cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense.**

LAW OF NONCONTRADICTION—Biblical References: Matthew 21:25 – Some question only have a yes or no answer (either from heaven or from men). 2 Corinthians 1:18 – A valid statement (message) must be either “yes” or “no” and not “yes” and “no.”

WHAT IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF TRUTH?

The first principle of truth is a knowable, transcendent and unchanging reality (fixed point or referent). In this respect, we have demonstrated that the truth about reality can be known or discovered.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF TRUTH—Biblical References: There are only two sides with respect to statements about reality, the side of error and the side of truth. John 18:37 – “For this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” By definition, truth is a statement or idea that corresponds to reality (God). The Spirit of God is the fixed point of reality (1 John 5:6 “The Spirit is *the truth*) and God’s Word is truth because it matches reality (In John 17:17 Jesus said, “your word is truth.”). Jesus is the truth because he perfectly corresponds to God (In John 14:16 Jesus said, “I am the truth.” In Hebrews 1:3 we read, “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.”

Note how Jesus uses Truth in absolute terms:

I am the light of the world (John 8:12). [He is —the light of the world.]

Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light (John 3:21). [“the truth”- one, absolute truth.]

Everyone on the side of truth listens to me (John 18:37). [Truth is one-sided: Absolute.]

I am the way and the truth . . . No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).

If truth were relative, his claims would not mean anything at all. If truth were relative, then any religious leader could be —a light of the world. One could live by —any view of truth, but not —the truth. If so, then Jesus should have said he was born to testify to the culturally relative view of truth that existed during the first century AD in Jerusalem. Finally, his exclusive and absolute claim to be the only way to God would be reduced to the claim that he was merely one way among many ways to God.

Note how the Word of God speaks to the law of opposites (noncontradiction):

2 Corinthians 1:18 – A valid statement (message) must be either —yes or no, not yes and no.

2 Corinthians 10:5 - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against [opposite of] the knowledge of God . . .

Matthew 5:37 – Simply let your `Yes' be `Yes,' and your `No,' `No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

1 Timothy 6:20 - Turn away from godless chatter and the *opposing ideas* of what is falsely called knowledge.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF SCIENCE—Biblical References: The principle of causality with respect to God as the First Cause of the universe and life is found in Genesis 1:1; 1:3 and 1:27, respectively: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE—Biblical References: This principle is implied throughout God’s Word with respect to linking present cause and effect to past similar cause and effect. A few examples are as follows:

Luke 17:26 – “*Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.*”

2 Peter 3:4 – “Everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation” (there is uniformity in the world because there is design in the universe).

Romans 1:20 tells us that the past cause (God) of life and morality can be observed through present effects. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made . . .”

THE FOREMOST LAW OF SCIENCE—Biblical References: This law is clearly seen throughout the Bible. As we move away from the source of all energy and life, God, we experience degeneration. The universe is also subjected to this law. A few biblical references are as follows:

1. The “fall of humanity” resulted in the uncontrolled increase of disorder, a movement towards to chaos. In Genesis 3:17-19 we read, “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” Humanity, on its own, will always struggle against the second law until God recreates a new heaven and earth under the fullness of His order (Revelation 21:1).
2. When the king (Adam) fell, the kingdom (creation) fell with him. In Romans 8:19-22 we read, “The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration [the uncontrolled second law], not by its own choice [because nature is impersonal], but by the will of the one who subjected it [God cause it as a consequence of the sin of Adam and Eve], in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay [second law].”

THE FOREMOST LAW OF BIOLOGY—Biblical References: The law of specified complexity requires an intelligent cause. Language has an intelligent cause. Yet, we cannot have language unless logic/intelligence has a basis. This law is implied throughout God’s Word. We read it in Genesis 1 when we read that God created human life in His image. That is, His intellectual, moral, volitional and spiritual image. The intellectual image refers to logic and language. The clearest statement of this “logos” or eternal reason is found in John 1:1-2. “In the beginning was the Word [logos], and the Word [logos] was with God, and the Word [logos] was God.”

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF JURISPRUDENCE (JUSTICE)—Biblical References: This natural law provides the basis for a standard of morality. This standard, or moral law, can be thought of as a *first principle* of jurisprudence upon which all law ought to be based and upon which true civilization depends. It is the law written on their hearts (Romans 2:15) . . . It can be said that human reason is the basis for natural law *only insofar as it participates in the Eternal Reason.*¹ In that sense, human nature was endowed with certain God given qualities that gave humans intrinsic value based upon the eternal nature and moral character of God. “Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the [Mosaic] law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the [Mosaic] law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, the consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them” (Romans 2:14-15).

¹ Norman L. Geisler, *Thomas Aquinas: An Evangelical Appraisal* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991), p. 165.