

## APPENDIX B

### Can *logos* Be Used Equivocally?

One of the difficulties one might have with the interpretation I proposed for John 1:1 in Paper #5 is the equivocal use of *logos*. In Paper #5 I argued that the structure of the argument makes it highly likely that John is using *logos* equivocally. Nevertheless, some may object that it just is not linguistically possible to have exactly the same word being used in back-to-back assertions with significantly different meanings. In order to demonstrate that such a phenomenon is in fact possible, I list here several hypothetical statements in English where the very same word is used with different, but related meanings—just as I am proposing is the case in John 1:1.

In all of the following examples, within a sentence or two, the same word is used to mean something different, but related:

- I didn't get a single **sale** today; even though I advertised a huge **sale**.

sale (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *a transaction exchanging goods for money*

sale (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *a marketing tool used to increase the number of transactions exchanging goods for money*

- It was time for the third **watch**. Everyone was asleep, except John. John was **watch** that night.

watch (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *designation of a period of time where a certain activity is to take place*

watch (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *designation of the person who is to engage in the above activity*

- The **defense** was splendid in last night's game. John is part of the **defense**; but he didn't get to play last night.

defense (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *a team's execution of a particular phase of their game*

defense (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *the set of players on a team whose role it is to execute a particular phase of that team's play*

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Note that in all the remaining examples, one occurrence describes the source of cause of what is denoted by the other occurrence. This corresponds to how we are taking John 1:1. We take the second occurrence of *logos* (author of the script) to be the source of what is designated by the other occurrences of *logos* (the script).

- The only reason we have **light** to see by is because John brought a **light**.

light (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *the energy necessary for one's ability to see*

light (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *a source of that energy necessary for one's ability to see*

Note that in all the remaining examples, one use of the word is the product of some activity and the other use of the word is the activity itself, the capability to perform that activity, or the person who performs that activity. This corresponds to how we are taking John 1:1. We take the first occurrence of *logos* to be the product of the activity of a mind (script). The second occurrence of *logos* we take to be the person that produced that product by performing the requisite activity (author of the script).

- John is the **tackle** who made the **tackle**.

tackle (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *the person who performs the action described below*

tackle (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *an action that occurs during a football game*

- I babysat last night. It was **trouble** right from the beginning. I have never had it so bad. Tommy is **trouble**. He started up the minute I arrived.

trouble (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *a particular state; a state of some kind of hardship*

trouble (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *the person who is the cause of that above state of hardship*

- In our band, **rhythm** was the key to our success. Without **rhythm** our music would not have been what it was. John was **rhythm**. I was melody.

rhythm (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *an element in the making of music*

rhythm (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *an element in the making of music*

rhythm (3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence) = *a person who creates the above element in the making of music*

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Note that in all the examples that follow, the assertions go from using the word in one way, switch to using the word in a different, but related meaning, and then return to using the word as it was used originally. This is what I have proposed is the structure we find in John 1.

Notice further that in all the examples below, any ambiguity that might result from using the same word in a different sense is eliminated by a final assertion that repeats and reaffirms the initial assertion or two. This is what I have proposed is the way John eliminates ambiguity in John 1.

- In the first place, the chimney desperately needed a **sweep**. So, finding a **sweep** was the first thing we needed to do. Fortunately, John was a **sweep**. But, the **sweep** was definitely the place we had to start.

sweep (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *an action to be performed*

sweep (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *a person who performs the action in occurrence 1*

sweep (3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence) = *a person who performs the action in occurrence 1*

sweep (4<sup>th</sup> occurrence) = *an action to be performed*

- In the beginning was a **thought**. It was a good **thought**. It was a **thought** from the depths of **thought** itself. Now the **thought** itself was God. God had the very first **thought**.

thought (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *a particular product of intellectual activity*

thought (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *a particular product of intellectual activity*

thought (3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence) = *a particular product of intellectual activity*

thought (4<sup>th</sup> occurrence) = *the capability of producing the products of intellectual activity*

thought (5<sup>th</sup> occurrence) = *the capability of producing the products of intellectual activity*

thought (6<sup>th</sup> occurrence) = *a particular product of intellectual activity*

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- In the beginning was the **intention**. The **intention** was co-existent with God himself. Indeed, God was **intention**. Now the **intention** was with God himself from the beginning.

intention (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *a particular purpose that is formed out of the mind and volition of a person*

intention (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *a particular purpose that is formed out of the mind and volition of a person*

intention (3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence) = *the capability of forming a particular purpose out of one's mind and volition*

intention (4<sup>th</sup> occurrence) = *a particular purpose that is formed out of the mind and volition of a person*

- In the foremost was **rhythm**. **Rhythm** was the key to it all. John was the **rhythm**. **Rhythm** is more important than anything.

rhythm (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence) = *an element in the making of music*

rhythm (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence) = *an element in the making of music*

rhythm (3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence) = *a person who creates the above element in the making of music*

rhythm (4<sup>th</sup> occurrence) = *an element in the making of music*