

Mere Christianity Assignments:

Book 1: Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe

Chapter 1: The Law of Human Nature

1. What does Lewis mean by “the law of human nature?” (3-5 sentences)
2. Lewis argues: “Whenever you find a man who says he does not believe in a real Right and Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later. He may break his promise to you, but if you try breaking one to him he will be complaining ‘It’s not fair’ before you can say Jack Robinson.” Can you think of a time when someone pointed out your inconsistent behavior? How did you respond to that? (2-3 sentences)
3. Read Proverbs 12:1. What does this verse tell us about people who refuse to be corrected?
4. How does the idea of right and wrong relate to whether God’s existence? (2-3 sentences)

Chapter 2: Some Objections

1. Lewis says that “feeling a desire to help is quite different from feeling that you ought to help whether you want to or not.” What does Lewis mean by this? (Paragraph 2)
2. What is the “herd instinct” and how does that differ from the Moral Law in Lewis’s argument?
3. Read Romans 1:18-23. What do these verses tell us about what all people know about God?
4. What happens when someone suppresses the knowledge of God? (See Romans 1:22-23)
5. Write a paragraph (3-5 sentences) explaining how the Moral Law helps to prove that God exist.

Chapter 3: The Reality of the Law

1. What is the difference between the “laws of nature” and the Law of Human Nature? (2-3 sentences)
2. Review Lewis’s illustration of the man on the train who had his “corner seat taken.” In your own words, what’s the point of this illustration? What is the point of the illustration as it relates to the Moral Law? (3-4 sentences)

Chapter 4: What Lies Behind the Law

1. In this chapter, Lewis mentions two views that people have to explain the world. What are they and give a brief explanation of each. (Paragraph 2)

2. What is the major limitation of the materialist view of the world?
3. Read Psalm 19:1-7 and Colossians 1:15-17. What do these passage teach us about why God created the world?

Chapter 5: We Have Cause to Be Uneasy

1. In this chapter, Lewis talks about two bits of evidence that “Somebody” exist outside of us. What are they?
2. “God is the only comfort, He is also the supreme terror: the thing we most need and the thing we most want to hide from.” What does this quote mean? (3-5 sentences)
3. Christianity makes no sense to those who do not know they need to be forgiven. Can you think of any verses in the Bible that help us to see that we are sinners and need to be forgiven?
4. Do you agree with Lewis’s quote, “Of course, I quite agree that the Christian religion is, in the long run, a thing of unspeakable comfort. But it does not begin in comfort; it begins in the dismay.” Why or who not? (3-5 sentences)

Book 2, 1-3 (2/7/23)

1. In your own words, what do you think the author is saying in the first paragraph of the chapter? Do you think this is true? How should that change our approach to other religions/worldviews?
2. How does the Christian understanding of God give us a framework for calling things cruel and unjust? How does Lewis say this realization affected him? How does it affect you?
3. Lewis argues that Christianity’s complexity attests to its reality. Do you think this is a convincing argument? Why or why not?
4. What is the difference between “preference” and “good and evil?” Is it important for Christians to hold to this distinction? Why or why not? Give an example of a preference and matter of good and evil.
5. Lewis says that wickedness is most often “the pursuit of some good in the wrong way.” Do you agree? Think about the last time you sinned. Is this true in your experience?

6. Lewis describes human history as “the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” Do you think this is true? How does that align with your experience of sin and repentance? Why can’t we find satisfaction outside of God?

Book 2, 4-5 (2/9/23)

1. Lewis makes his famous “trilemma” argument: Jesus must either be a Liar, a Lunatic, or he must be Lord. Do you think this is true? Which one is Jesus? How would you defend that?
2. What does Lewis mean when he says, “A man can accept what Christ has done without knowing how it works: indeed, he certainly would not know how it works until he has accepted it?” How might this change the way you think about evangelism? Does this mean theology and Bible Study isn’t important?
3. Lewis writes, “Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms.” What does this mean about salvation? If you claim to be a Christian, has this happened for you?
4. Lewis describes the ministry of the Holy Spirit on pg. 58-59 as a teacher holding the hand of a child learning to write. If you are a Christian, do you live a life of dependence on the Spirit? How can you grow in dependence?
5. According to Lewis, what are a few things (2-3) that set the Christian apart from others?