

MERE CHRISTIANITY C. S. LEWIS

Warm-Up Question:

Have you read any books by CS Lewis? If so, which is your favorite?

Start by Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:13

I. Mere Christianity: FAITH

- ▶ If one were to walk the road of all out moral effort, what would be the probably end of that road? Read the 1st quote to the right to help you think through this.
- ▶ What would it look like for you to try really hard to go 6 weeks without being impatient, defensive, critical, or to say anything that's not useful to encourage.
- ▶ What does **Romans 3:9-12, 20** teach us about one of the purposes of the law? How should the law lead us to faith in Christ?

II. Mere Christianity: HOPE

- ▶ Discuss what **Romans 8:22-23** teaches us about living in this world. How does it give understanding of your experience?
- ▶ Read the long quote in the sidebar and discuss 1) how you can relate to it, and 2) how it should impact and change how we live.
- ▶ Read **Psalms 16:11**. What do you think it means? How would this impact how you live more if you really believed this and lived in light of it?

III. Mere Christianity: LOVE

- ▶ Read **Eph. 4:32**. What does it call you to do? What if you don't feel such love or kindness for people?
- ▶ Read the bottom quote to the right and discuss. How does what we do actually form us into who we become?
- ▶ Read **Eph. 1:4-5** and **Romans 5:6-8, 10**. When did God set us love on us? How did what God did for us demonstrate his love for us?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?



SEVEN RIVERS
C H U R C H

"No man knows how bad he is until he has tried very hard to be good."

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find until after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others do the same."

"Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less."

MERE CHRISTIANITY

1 Corinthians 13:13

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Scriptures Used

1Cor. 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Rom. 3:9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, **10** as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; **11** no one understands; no one seeks for God. **12** All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Rom. 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Rom. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Psa. 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Eph. 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Eph. 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...

Rom. 5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.