A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY Lesson 6 Chapter 3.1 Chapter 3.2 PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL	

CLASS FIVE CHAPTER SUMMARIES

2.4

Christ's atonement is the core of Christianity. Through it, we have the basis and ability to repent.

2.5

God provides blessings (Baptism, Word, Lord's Supper) to help us receive and grow in "the Christlife."

BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR CHAPTER ONE: THE THREE PARTS OF MORALITY Outline: Morality	
One Definition Two Points Three Parts	
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ONE DEFINITION

What is morality?

- 1. Conformity to the rules of right conduct; moral or virtuous conduct. (Dictionary.com)
- 2. Of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior (Merriam-Webster)
- 3. Moral virtue; behaviour conforming to moral law or accepted moral standards, esp. in relation to sexual matters; personal qualities judged to be good. (Oxford)

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TWO POINTS	+	
Moral ideals vs. Moral obedience	\setminus	
Ideals are& Example 1: operating a machine Example 2: completing your math homework		
2. How the "human machine" goes wrong:When human individuals drift apart from one another.When things go wrong inside the individual.		
Example 3: A fleet of ships "If the ships keep on having collisions they will not remain seaworthy very long. On the other hand, if their steering gears are out of order they will not be able to avoid collisions." (p. 71)		
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America's foundation for determining right and wrong should be...

	Population segment	The Bible	What you feel in your heart	Majority Rule
	Demographic segments:			
	Age 18-29		47%	
	Age 30-49		44	
	Age 50+	39%		
/	Male		39	
	Female		44	
	White		40	
	Hispanic		47	
	Black		43	
	Asian		48	
	Married		39	
	Single, never been married		46	
	Self-identified LGBTQ		50	

	Tana			
	Religious segments:			
	Self-identified Christian	38		
	Faith other than Christianity		45	
	No faith		53	
	Attend an evangelical church	62		
	Attend a mainline Protestant church	36		
	Attend a Catholic church		46	
	Attend a Protestant church (any type)	39		
	Theologically-defined born-again	54		
	Possess a biblical worldview	66		
	Political segments:			
/	Self-identified ideology: Conservative	49		
	Self-identified ideology: Moderate		47	
	Self-identified ideology: Liberal		46	
	Party identification: Republican	45		
	Party identification: Democrat		46	
	Party identification: Independent		47	
	Republican and conservative	57		
	Republican and moderate		38	

The Three Parts 1. Fair play and harmony between individuals. 2. Tidying up or harmonizing the things inside each individual. 3. The general purpose of human life as a whole.	How well does our current culture reflect the three types of morality? Lewis writes, "You cannot make men good by the law: and without good men you cannot have a good society." How does this thought add a new dimension to the topic of morality?	

BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR CHAPTER TWO: THE 'CARDINAL VIRTUES' Outline: Prudence Temperance Justice Fortitude	
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WHAT ARE THE CARDINAL VIRTUES?

The cardinal virtues are the four principal moral virtues. The English word *cardinal* comes from the Latin word *cardo*, which means "hinge." All other virtues hinge on these four: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Plato first discussed the cardinal virtues in the *Republic*, and they entered into Christian teaching by way of Plato's disciple Aristotle. Unlike the theological virtues, which are the gifts of God through grace, the four cardinal virtues can be practiced by anyone; thus, they represent the foundation of natural morality.

PRUDENCE

"Prudence means practical common sense, taking the trouble to think out what you are doing and what is likely to come of it."

Does a childlike faith negate prudence? Answer: _____

- Matthew 10:16 "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."
- Ephesians 1:16-17 I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully.

TEMPERANCE		
"Temperance referred not specially to drink, but to all pleasures; and it meant not abstaining, but going the right length and no further."		
 1 Peter 2:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 "Everything is permitted" but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permitted" but not everything builds up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of others. Prudence and Temperance are the guideposts for:		
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JUSTICE

"Justice ... is the old name for everything we should now call 'fairness'; it includes honesty, give and take, truthfulness, keeping promises, and all that side of life."

- Luke 11:42 But woe to you Pharisees, because you give a tenth of mint and rue and every herb, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have done these things without neglecting the others.
- Isaiah 61:8 Yes, I am the LORD. I love justice. I hate robbery in a burnt offering. I will repay them in faithfulness, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

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FORTITUDE

- "Fortitude includes both kinds of courage the kind that faces danger as well as the kind that 'sticks it' under pain. 'Guts' is perhaps the nearest modern English."
- Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
 Do not be terrified and do not be overwhelmed, because the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
- Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and courageous. Wait for the LORD.

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WHAT MAKES A PERSON VIRTUOUS?

Three common areas across the Cardinal Virtues:

- 1. They are all based in reason.
- 2. They are true, and therefore apply to all people.
- 3. They are about more than just "doing" the act.

As we consider Christian morality, why do we have to be careful as we discuss the Cardinal Virtues?

Romans 8:3-4 Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, 4 so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

MEMORABLE THOUGHTS

"It would be idiotic not to try; for every mistake is going to cause you trouble later on." (pp. 70-71)

"He [God] wants a child's heart, but a grown-up's head." (p. 77)

"Anyone who is honestly trying to be a Christian will soon find his intelligence being sharpened: one of the reasons why it needs no special education to be a Christian is that Christianity is an education itself." (p. 78)

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CLASS SIX CHAPTER SUMMARIES

3.1

Morality is knowing the difference between right and wrong. This involves our heart, our actions, and the purpose of our lives.

3.2

The Cardinal Virtues are based in the law, but perfected in the gospel.

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