A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY Lesson 7 Chapter 3.4 PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL	

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.

BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR CHAPTER ONE: SOCIAL MORALITY Outline: Morality • What is a Christian Society? • The problem and the solution	
	3

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SOCIETY?

A few points about Lewis' context:

- 1. The society to which he was speaking was 1940s Great Britain.
 - Difference 1: Certain terms used
 - Difference 2: The problems we face
 - Difference 3: How the world has changed since Lewis' time
- 2. We want to understand the overall principles that God gives us about Christian morality in our culture.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SOCIETY?

According to Lewis:

- 1. "There are to be no passengers or parasites."
- 2. "It is always insisting on obedience."
- 3. "It is to be a cheerful society."

If there were such a society in existence and you or I visited it, I think we should come away with a curious impression. We should feel that its economic life was very socialistic and, in that sense, 'advanced', but that its family life and its code of manners were rather old fashioned—perhaps even ceremonious and aristocratic.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SOCIETY TODAY?

One side says:

- America was a Christian nation and still should be today.

 We should give preference to Christians in political and civil matters.
- We should limit people of other ethnicities or faiths from entering the country.
- Christian nationalism is the solution for America.

The other side says:

- Religious pluralism is better than Christianity.
- There is no connection between religion and the state of our society.

 Because of America's history, Christianity should be targeted and relegated more than other religions.
- Christian nationalism is the greatest threat to America.

What does a Christian citizen look like?

Luke 20:25 And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God

1 Peter 2:13-17 Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the king as the supreme authority 14 or to governors as those who have been sent by him to punish those who do what is wrong and to praise those who do what is right. 15 For this is God's will: that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. 16 Do this as free people, and do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but use it as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

What does a Christian citizen look like?

Romans 13:1-8 Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. 2 Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, 4 because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience. 6 For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. 7 Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed. 8 Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SOCIETY TODAY?

I may repeat 'Do as you would be done by' till I am black in the face, but I cannot really carry it out till I love my neighbour as myself: and I cannot learn to love my neighbour as myself till I learn to love God: and I cannot learn to love God except by learning to obey Him. And so, as I warned you, we are driven on to something more inward—driven on from social matters to religious matters. For the longest way round is the shortest way home.

A Few Thoughts on Jesus

1. Jesus did not invent a new morality.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them."

"The real job of every moral teacher is to keep bringing us back, time after time, to the old simple principles which we are all so anxious not to see."

2. The Golden Rule is misused today.

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments."

BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR CHAPTER FOUR: MORALITY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS Outline:	
	11

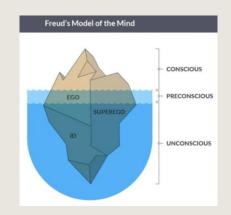
PSYCHOANALYSIS AND FAITH

Now you want to distinguish very clearly between two things: between the actual medical theories and technique of the psychoanalysts, and the general philosophical view of the world which Freud and some others have gone on to add to this.

Its technique overlaps with Christian morality at some points and it would not be a bad thing if every person knew something about it: but it does not run the same course all the way, for the two techniques are doing rather different things.

A BIT ABOUT FREUD

- Believed that personality is formed in childhood, and conflict throughout life is the rest of unresolved, subconscious feelings and poor socialization.
- Personality is based on three parts:
 - Id Basic level natural impulses
 - Ego First Level basic rules
 - Superego Second level morality and conscience



The goal is to bring subconscious drives into consciousness.

13

TWO THINGS INVOLVED IN A MORAL CHOICE

When a man makes a moral choice two things are involved. One is the act of choosing. The other is the various feelings, impulses and so on which his psychological outfit presents him with, and which are the raw material of his choice.

Is there potentially a "third thing" involved, namely the foundation or perspective upon which one makes the choice?

The Christian position is that we do make moral choices, but they are based on and empowered by faith. With the faith component, our ability to make a moral choice is irreparably injured.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MORALITY

The bad psychological material is not a sin but a disease. It does not need to be repented of, but to be cured. And by the way, that is very important. Human beings judge one another by their external actions. God judges them by their moral choices.

1 Timothy 1:8 Now, we know that the law is good as long as one uses it correctly--

15

MENTAL HEALTH AND MORALITY

Lewis writes: "I would much rather say that every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before."

What is your analysis of Lewis' description of the way Christian morality works?

MEMORABLE THOUGHTS

- "You will find this again and again about anything that is really Christian: every one is attracted by bits of it and wants to pick out those bits and leave the rest." (p. 85)
- "For many of us the great obstacle to charity lies not in our luxurious living or desire for more money, but in our fear fear of insecurity." (p. 86)
- "A Christian society is not going to arrive until most of us really want it: and we are not going to want it until we become fully Christian." (p. 87)
- "Good people know about both good and evil: bad people do not know about either." (p. 93)

CLASS SIX CHAPTER SUMMARIES

3.3

A Christian society is made by changing individual hearts, not by political means. 3.4

Secular mental health therapy is helpful, but it is not a replacement for our faith.
