
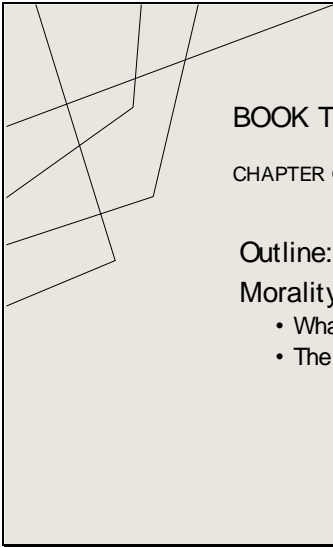


A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY

Lesson 7
Chapter 3.3 | Chapter 3.4



PEACE THRU CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL



BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR

CHAPTER ONE: SOCIAL MORALITY

Outline:
Morality

- What is a Christian Society?
- The problem and the solution

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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.

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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.

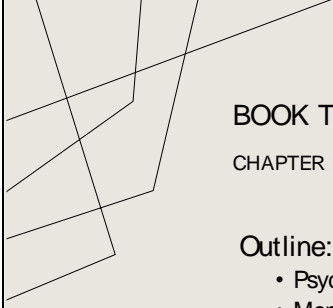
WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SOCIETY TODAY?

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:

- Psychoanalysis and Faith
- Mental Health and Morality

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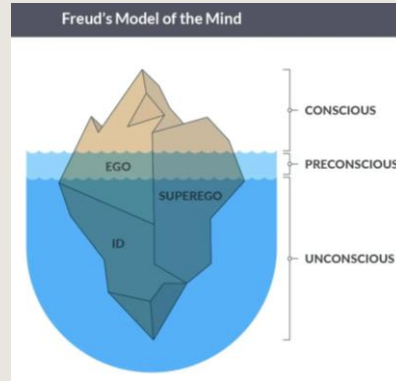
PSYCHOANALYSIS AND FAITH

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.

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--

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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?
