


A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY

Lesson 15
Chapter 4.7 | Chapter 4.8



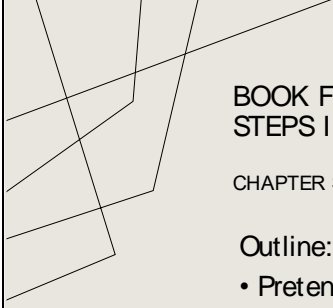
PEACE THRU CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

LESSON 14 CHAPTER SUMMARIES

<p style="text-align: center;">4.5</p> <p>Christ was begotten of the Father in order to change us.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4.6</p> <p>God could not have done things any other way because His way is perfect. Faith is for both the individual and the community.</p>
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Slide 3



**BOOK FOUR: BEYOND PERSONALITY: OR FIRST
STEPS IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

CHAPTER SEVEN: LET'S PRETEND

Outline:

- Pretending
- Two Other Discoveries

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PRETENDING

To put it bluntly, you are *dressing up as Christ*. If you like, you are pretending. Because, of course, the moment you realise what the words mean, you realise that you are not a son of God. You are not a being like The Son of God, whose will and interests are at one with those of the Father: you are a bundle of self-centred fears, hopes, greeds, jealousies, and self-conceit, all doomed to death. So that, in a way, this dressing up as Christ is a piece of outrageous cheek. But the odd thing is that He has ordered us to do it.



PRETENDING

The real Son of God is at your side. He is beginning to turn you into the same kind of thing as Himself. He is beginning, so to speak, to 'inject' His kind of life and thought, His *Zoe*, into you; beginning to turn the tin soldier into a live man. The part of you that does not like it is the part that is still tin.

And now we begin to see what it is that the New Testament is always talking about. It talks about Christians 'being born again'; it talks about them 'putting on Christ'; about Christ 'being formed in us'; about our coming to 'have the mind of Christ'.

PRETENDING

Romans 8:29 because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers.

Philippians 3:10-11 I do this so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, in the hope that in some way I may arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

Colossians 3:10 and put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in knowledge, according to the image of its Creator.

Sanctification: A change in the sinner.

- Based on Justification.
- Wide Sense: Everything the Holy Spirit does to bring us to faith in Jesus and keep us in the faith.
- Narrow Sense: The new life the believer lives through faith in Jesus Christ.

HOW DOES GOD "CONFORM" US TO HIMSELF?

Men are mirrors, or 'carriers' of Christ to other men. Sometimes unconscious carriers. This 'good infection' can be carried by those who have not got it themselves. People who were not Christians themselves helped me to Christianity. But usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to others.

TWO OTHER DISCOVERIES

1. We start to see not just what we do, but who we are.

"Surely that a man does when he is taken off his guard is the best evidence for what sort of man he is?" (p. 192)

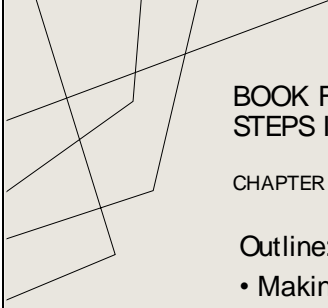
"The suddenness does not create the rats: it only prevents them from hiding." (p. 192)

2. God does everything for us, even though we describe what we are doing.

"In a sense you might even say it is God who does the pretending." (p. 193)

"After the first few steps in the Christian life we realise that everything which really needs to be done in our souls can be done only by God." (p. 193)

Discussion question: How does the imagery of people being "the masks of God" or as Lewis puts it, "mirrors of Christ" help you understand Sanctification, and what impact does it have on the way we treat one another in the church?



**BOOK FOUR: BEYOND PERSONALITY: OR FIRST
STEPS IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

CHAPTER EIGHT: IS CHRISTIANITY HARD OR EASY?

Outline:

- Making our Payment
- What's Hard and Easy

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MAKING OUR PAYMENT

In fact, we are very like an honest man paying his taxes. He pays them all right, but he does hope that there will be enough left over for him to live on. Because we are still taking our natural self as the starting point.


- Moralism:** "An attempt to produce good behavior by appealing to what is good for the person or for society."
- Legalism:** "An attempt to produce Christian living through the law."
- Speculation:** "The assumption that knowledge is the key to spiritual fulfillment."
- Mysticism:** "Attaining the ecstatic experience of becoming one with God."

MAKING OUR PAYMENT


For, make no mistake: if you are really going to try to meet all the demands made on the natural self, it will not have enough left over to live on.

“The proclamation of the law alone, without Christ, either makes presumptuous people, who believe that they can fulfill the law with their outward works, or drives people into total despair.” (Formula of Concord, Article V)

WHAT'S HARD AND EASY



John 13:8 Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."



"If I am a field that contains nothing by grass- seed, I cannot produce wheat. Cutting the grass may keep it short: but I shall still produce grass and no wheat. If I want to produce wheat, the change must go deeper than the surface. I must be ploughed up and re-sown." (p. 198)

"It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad." (p. 199)

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WHAT'S HARD AND EASY

The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down.

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
