


A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY

Lesson 16  
Chapter 4.9 | Chapter 4.10 | Chapter 4.11



PEACE THRU CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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LESSON 15 CHAPTER SUMMARIES

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4.7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Sanctification is the pretense of perfection.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4.8</p> <p style="margin: 0;">What makes Christianity hard drives us to find what also makes it easy.</p>
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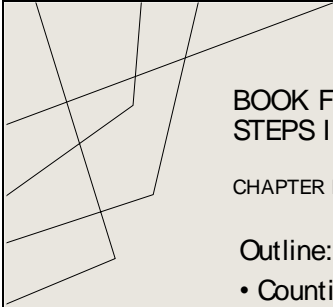
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Slide 3



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

CHAPTER NINE: COUNTING THE COST

**Outline:**

- Counting the Cost – Luke 14

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Slide 5

COUNTING THE COST

“I could not get what I wanted out of her without getting something more, which I did not want.” (p. 201)

“You have free will, and if you choose, you can push Me away. But if you do not push Me away, understand that I am going to see this job through.” (p. 202)

“It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the tremendous thing He means to make of us.” (p. 205)

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LUKE 14

v.7: "So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them..."

- v.11: "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- v.14: "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."
- v.24: "For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."

v. 35: "He who has ears to hear, let Him hear!"

15:1: "Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to hear Him."

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BE PERFECT

**Matthew 5:48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."**

1. "Unless you are perfect, I will not help you."
2. "The only help I will give you is help to become perfect. You may want something less: but I will give you nothing less."

**Matthew 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."**

"The command Be ye perfect is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command." (p. 205)

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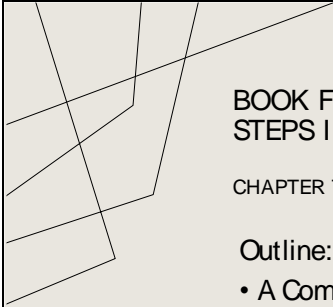
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**BOOK FOUR: BEYOND PERSONALITY: OR FIRST  
STEPS IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

CHAPTER TEN: NICE PEOPLE OR NEW MEN

**Outline:**

- A Common Question
- The Anesthetic Fog

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A COMMON QUESTION

**“If Christianity is true why are not all Christians obviously nicer than all non-Christians?” (p. 207)**

1. Real life is more complicated than this.
2. There are other details that contribute to the result.
3. Judging Christianity based on this question limits Christ.

***What is the purpose and effect of Christianity?***

“The question whether the natures they offer or withhold are, at the moment, nice or nasty ones, is of secondary importance. God can see to that part of the problem.” (p. 212)

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A COMMON QUESTION

**“If wonderful people engage in a behavior I think it wrong, then maybe I ought to rethink whether it is wrong.”**

“Christians don't claim that something is wrong only if 'really awful' people do it. We argue that something is wrong if it conflicts with God's character, which is reflected in his commandments.”

“If Christians change their view of homosexuality simply because they discover that homosexuals are nice people, then that actually reveals a very embarrassing reality, namely, that they had assumed homosexuals must be awful people. In other words, it reveals that they had a form of *prejudice* – that they had assumed that people who are different from them must be mean, cruel, and unpleasant. But that is a decidedly anti-Christian way of thinking.”

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### THE ANESTHETIC FOG

There is either a warning or an encouragement here for every one of us. If you are a nice person—if virtue comes easily to you—beware! Much is expected from those to whom much is given. If you mistake for your own merits what are really God’s gifts to you through nature, and if you are contented with simply being nice, you are still a rebel: and all those gifts will only make your fall more terrible, your corruption more complicated, your bad example more disastrous. The Devil was an archangel once; his natural gifts were as far above yours as yours are above those of a chimpanzee.

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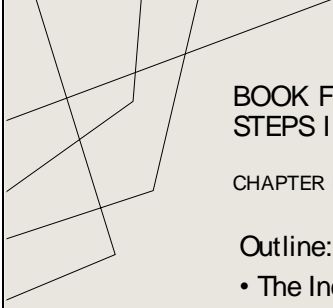
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**BOOK FOUR: BEYOND PERSONALITY: OR FIRST  
STEPS IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

CHAPTER ELEVEN: THE NEW MEN

**Outline:**

- The Inexplicable Change
- The Next Step

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**THE INEXPLICABLE CHANGE**

**Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice- - holy and pleasing to God- - which is your appropriate worship. 2 Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God-- what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

**Romans 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his adviser?" 35 "Or who has first given to God that he will be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

- 1. Faith is a change we all need.
- 2. Faith is a change that is unearned and unexpected.

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THE INEXPLICABLE CHANGE

**Isaiah 55:10-11** Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return there unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout, so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** Certainly my plans are not your plans, and your ways are not my ways, declares the LORD. 9 Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my plans are higher than your plans.

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Slide 16



“They keep on killing  
the thing He started:  
and each time, just as  
they are patting down  
the earth on its grave,  
they suddenly hear  
that it is still alive  
and has even broken out in  
some new place.”  
(p. 222)

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MEMORABLE THOUGHTS

“But the question is not what we intended ourselves to be, but what He intended us to be when He made us.” (p. 203)

“Often people who have all these natural kinds of goodness cannot be brought to recognise their need for Christ at all until, one day, the natural goodness lets them down and their self-satisfaction is shattered.” (p. 214)

“How monotonously alike all the great tyrants and conquerors have been: how gloriously different are the saints.” (p. 226)

“In fact what I so proudly call ‘Myself’ becomes merely the meeting place for trains and events which I never started and which I cannot stop.” (p. 225)

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LESSONS LEARNED

*What are some of the lessons/insights you have learned in this study?*

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**LESSON 16 CHAPTER SUMMARIES**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4.9</b></p> <p>Christianity involves a total change that is painful to the sinful flesh.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4.10</b></p> <p>Christianity is about more than outward behavior.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4.11</b></p> <p>Christianity's change is greater (in both wisdom and effect) than us.</p>
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