



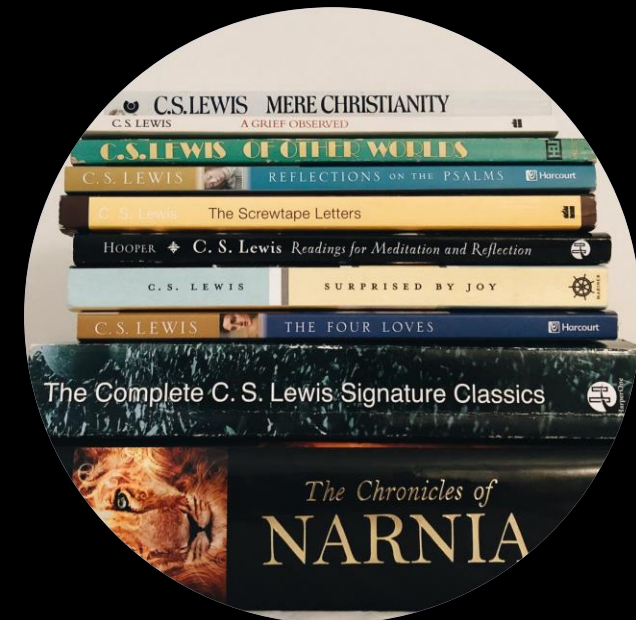
# Mere Christianity

Pastor Michael Cranford

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# Schedule

- Oct 22 Worldview; Book 1
- Oct 29 Book 2: What Christians Believe
- Nov 5 BREAK (Mission Sunday)
- Nov 12 Book 3
- Nov 19 BREAK (Thanksgiving, In-N-Out)
- Nov 26 Book 4(a)
- Dec 3 Book 4(b)



# Mere Christianity:

Book 4: Beyond Personality: Or First Steps  
in the Doctrine of the Trinity

# Mere Christianity: Book 4

## 5. The Obstinate Toy Soldiers

Did you ever think, when you were a child, what fun it would be if your toys could come to life? Well suppose you could really have brought them to life. Imagine turning a tin soldier into a real little man. It would involve turning the tin into flesh. And suppose the tin soldier did not like it. He is not interested in flesh; all he sees is that the tin is being spoiled. He thinks you are killing him. He will do everything he can to prevent you. He will not be made into a man if he can help it. ... The Man in Christ rose again: not only the God. That is the whole point. For the first time we saw a real man. One tin soldier—real tin, just like the rest—had come fully and splendidly alive. (179-180)

# Mere Christianity: Book 4

## 6. Two Notes

The process of being turned from a creature into a son would not have been difficult or painful if the human race had not turned away from God centuries ago. They were able to do this because He gave them free will: He gave them free will because a world of mere automata could never love and therefore never know infinite happiness. (183)



# Mere Christianity: Book 4

## 7. Let's Pretend

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. (189)



# Mere Christianity: Book 4

## 8. Is Christianity Hard or Easy?

The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over your whole self—all your wishes and precautions—to Christ. But it is far easier than what we are all trying to do instead. For what we are trying to do is remain what we call ‘ourselves,’ to keep personal happiness as our great aim in life, and yet at the same time be ‘good.’ (197-98)



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## 9. Counting the Cost

That is why we must not be surprised if we are in for a rough time. When a man turns to Christ and seems to be getting on pretty well (in the sense that some of his bad habits are now corrected) he often feels that it would now be natural if things went fairly smoothly. When troubles come along—illnesses, money troubles, new kinds of temptation—he is disappointed... God is forcing him on, or up, to a high level. (205)



# Mere Christianity: Book 4

## 10. Nice People or New Men

There are people (a great many of them) who are slowly ceasing to be Christians but who still call themselves by that name: some of them are clergymen. There are other people who are slowly becoming Christians though they do not yet call themselves so.  
(208)



# Mere Christianity: Book 4

## II. The New Men

Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with ever fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in. (226-27)

