

Ankeny UCC Mere Christianity Study, Book IV: *Beyond Personality: Or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity* 4/5/2022

I. Making and Begetting

- a. Lewis talks a bit about a map vs. human experience. What do you think he's saying there?
- b. Okay, this is a big thing for the next few chapters. What's the difference between making and begetting and how it relates to being Children of God? (What God begets is God, what man gets is man)

II. The Three-Personal God

- a. What is a "three-personal God"?
- b. What do you think of Lewis's description of Christianity as an Experimental Science? (you cannot see God if God approaches, and you see God through a personal instrument? Horrible nations have horrible religions because they have been seeing God through a dirty lens)
- c. What's compelling about his argument that you can't have Christianity without Christian community?

III. Time and Beyond Time

- a. How do you conceive of the relationship between God and time?

IV. Good Infection

- a. What is the difference between God is Love and Love is God?
- b. What do you think of God in Three Persons meaning God is always in motion and relationally dynamic?

V. The Obstinate Toy Soldiers

- a. Lewis has a vivid description of how a tin soldier coming to life might react to that—the tin being spoilt. Did that resonate with you? Why?
- b. Lewis continues by suggesting we are all connected in one growing mass of humanity by God's life and effort. What do you think?

VI. Two Notes

- a. Does the devil send errors into the world in pairs?

VII. Let's Pretend

- a. Lewis describes two kinds of pretending—pretending with pretense that you won't follow up on, and pretending as a way of practice. How do you interpret this difference, and what do you think of it? Is there a downside?
- b. He relates this idea to Christianity by saying that Christ is making everything good in you. What do you think?
- c. Finally, he reminds us to love and honour and help other humans, but never to place our whole faith in them. Why?

VIII. Is Christianity Hard or Easy?

- a. What do you think of Lewis's characterization of Christ's demand of individuals? All of You? What does that look like, really?
- b. What do you think of Lewis's idea that the real problem is the moment you wake up and decide what to prioritize?

IX. Counting the Cost

- a. Is Christianity an escalating series of tests?
- b. What does Lewis's idea that the Christian life is more than you could of imagined mean for you? What feelings does it conjure?

X. Nice People or New Men



- a. What do you think of the comparison between Nice People and New Men? Lewis once again talks about a sort of progression over time. Do you think that matters?
- XI. The New Men

