

# Mere Christianity

Wednesday Bible Study – Week 7  
Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, Lansing, MI

## Book 3 – Chapter 5 – Sexual Morality

The distinction between

The rule of chastity:

The rule of modesty (propriety):

Is chastity the most unpopular of Christian virtues? (Lewis will alter this claim in chapter 7)

The Christian sexual ethic is so contrary to our instincts, one of them must be wrong.

Lewis' case for our instincts gone wrong

1. Eating is a biological process. Eating in excess is a function gone wrong.  
“Contraceptives have made sexual indulgence far less costly within marriage and far safer outside it than ever before, and public opinion is less hostile to illicit unions and even to perversion than it has been since Pagan times.” P. 97
2. Lust, unchastity, and perversions are not because sex was “hushed up” or repressed.

“Sex is nothing to be ashamed of.” P. 98-99

How is this true?

How is this not true?

Why is it difficult to even desire chastity?

1. Our sinful nature and the propaganda of the world makes us believe that it is “natural” and “healthy” to give into lusts, and perverse to resist them. P. 100  
“For any happiness, even in this world, quite a lot of restraint is going to be necessary.”
2. Many people think it is completely impossible, so they don't bother trying.  
“We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven. The only fatal thing is to sit down content with anything less than perfection.”
3. Repression is not the same as suppression. When we suppress our instincts, we are fully aware of them.

Final thought: This is not the center of Christian morality. We should not make too much or too little of chastity.

### **Book 3 – Chapter 6 – Christian Marriage**

Christianity teaches that marriage is for life.

This is for the sake, not only of chastity, but of \_\_\_\_\_. p. 105

“Those who are in love have a natural inclination to bind themselves to promises.” P. p. 107

Why keep the promise when people are no longer in love? (bottom of p. 107)

1. To provide a home for \_\_\_\_\_
2. To protect the \_\_\_\_\_ from being dropped.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is not the greatest good

What does C.S. Lewis think about legislating Christian marriage laws? p. 112

How does C.S. Lewis explain the Christian teaching of headship? p. 112-113

### **Book 3 – Chapter 7 – Forgiveness**

Is this the most unpopular of Christian virtues?

“I am not trying to tell you in this book what I could do – I can do precious little – I am telling you what Christianity is.” P. 115

Loving my enemies does not apparently mean thinking them \_\_\_\_\_. I am allowed to loathe some things my enemies do.

“Hate the sin but not the sinner.” P. 117. (we’ve been doing this all along with at least one)

Christians think human beings live forever. How does that give us perspective?

### **Book 3 – Chapter 8 – The Great Sin**

Pride and self-deceit is the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_. P. 121

C.S. Lewis calls this the utmost evil, and the original sin of Adam and Eve. (this is similar to St. Augustine and Roman Catholic theology. Luther might see things differently)

Pride is a sin that is essentially \_\_\_\_\_. P. 122

Pride infects other sins. (Greed wants more for yourself. Pride wants more than others).

Pride can often be used to beat down simpler vices (pride can make you tame lust, greed, language, etc., to make you think yourself a better person).

Ultimately, pride comes up against someone we cannot outdo in any way: \_\_\_\_\_.

- Pleasure in being praised is not pride.
- Warm-hearted admiration for someone (proud of your kids) is not pride.
- God is not proud.
- The first step to humility is to admit that one is \_\_\_\_\_.

**For next week, read Book 3, chapters 9-12**

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