

Summer Reading – Pioneer Valley Christian Academy 2017

Entering Grade/Course: Sociology, Grade 12

Book/Author: *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

Required to purchase? No. You may borrow the book from the PVCS library before the end of the school year or purchase it at local bookstores or online.

Requirements:

Mere Christianity – Answer the prepared questions over the book. These questions will be submitted upon your return to school in the fall (see below).

Evaluation: Test during the first or second week of school.

Late enrollees: For those who enroll after August 11, 2017, the book must be read in order to be prepared for first quarter material and the assignment must be completed by the second week of school.

Reading Questions for *Mere Christianity*

All answers must be typed and turned in the first day of class. Be sure to include the question with your answer.

Mere Christianity Questions – Book I

1. What is the author's understanding of the Law of Human Nature?
2. Read Romans 2:14-15 and connect your understanding of the Law of Human Nature to the teaching of the Apostle Paul in this passage.
3. How would you differentiate between instinct and moral law?
4. Why is it possible for people in one culture to make moral judgments about people in another culture?
5. How would you distinguish between the Law of Human Nature and the Law of Gravity?
6. The Law of Human Nature goes beyond the facts of human behavior. Explain.
7. Describe the two major views of the universe and explain why the author believes one view offers the best explanation for what is.
8. Explain why the materialist's (naturalist's) view of the universe is so attractive to people.
9. Why does the author conclude that you can know more about the God from the moral law than from what has been made?
10. Why is the concept of an absolute moral good disquieting to us?

Mere Christianity Questions - Book II

1. What does the author mean by degrees of differences in religion?
2. What is the primary difference between pantheism and Christianity?
3. What is the logical problem of saying that God does not exist?
4. What does the author provide as the two primary answers to a universe which is full of evil?
5. Explain the author's idea of good and evil?
6. How would you explain freewill?
7. Explain the quote, "evil is a parasite, not an original thing."
8. What is the reason for the death of Christ?
9. How is it possible that fallen man can repent?

Mere Christianity Questions - Book III – Chapters 1-12

1. What three things does the author believe are central to morality?
2. What is the primary difference between cardinal virtues and theological virtues?
3. Reflect on the idea that virtues have more to do with character than with one's actions, eternity more than temporality.
4. Why must religious matters ultimately affect social matters?
5. According to the author, what problem does psychoanalysis pose in relation to Christian morality?
6. Why does the author insist that Christians should not judge (condemn) others?
7. Why is difficult for a person to achieve complete chastity?
8. What is meant by the statement, "unchastity is not improved by adding perjury?"
9. How does the author consider the concept of "love" in the marriage relationship?
10. Is it necessary to have a "headship concept" in the marriage relationship?
11. How does the Biblical admonition, "love your neighbor as you love yourself" relate to the idea of forgiveness?
12. Describe the element of competition in the vice of pride.
13. Why does the author give the admonition, "Do not waste time bothering whether you love your neighbor; act as if you did."
14. What is the significance of the Christian's hope?
15. If you are double-minded, how will it affect your faith?

Mere Christianity Questions - Book IV – Chapters 1-11

1. Describe why theology is like a map?
2. What is the difference between being begotten and being made from a Biblical perspective?
3. How does God fit into our concept of time?
4. What is the symbolism of the *obstinate toy soldier*?
5. Why can't the words, "could have been" not work in relation to the being of God?
6. Summarize the author's point in chapter 8 regarding pretending as it relates to one's Christian growth in the Lord.

7. Is Christianity hard or easy? Explain.
8. Why does God's demand for perfection need not discourage us from striving to be good?
9. If Christianity is true why are not all Christians obviously nicer than all non-Christians?
10. What is the significance of Romans 12:1-2 in relation to our making changes in our lives?
11. What does it mean to become a new person in a spiritual sense?