



C.S. Lewis and Christian Apologetics with Dr. David Schenk

Lecture 1: Mere Christianity, Part 2

Outline:

Mere Christianity, Book 1, Chapter 2 by C.S. Lewis

- Maybe what we call right and wrong is just our tribal instinct?
 - There is no way this can be true, because sometimes the law of right and wrong tells us not to protect the herd. Sometimes we follow the herd instinct, and sometimes we do not.
- Isn't this all just a social convention?
 - This doesn't work either. If this were a function of one's society, then cultural critique would always be morally wrong.
 - There must be something outside of the culture grounding the moral competence of ours.

Mere Christianity, Book 1, Chapter 3 by C.S. Lewis

- What we call good and evil is what benefits or harms us. It is a bunch of simple self-interest (Plato). Lewis takes up this mantle from Plato.
 - I would hate to be the sort of person who only ever cares about themselves.
 - What our consciences tell us to do isn't whatever best serves us or our own, but a selfless thing of loving others as if they matter.
 - It is not just power that humans are concerned with.
- Maybe what we call right and wrong is whatever serves society.
 - There are times when we find our consciences telling us to do things that do not serve/benefit society.

Mere Christianity, Book 1, Chapter 4 by C.S. Lewis

- Our initial evidence that the laws of right and wrong is as real as anything is correct.
- Good and evil are in the world as the laws of physics.
- You should feel nervous about this as an atheist. The right and wrong are not measurable.
- If we have a reality of moral law that is pressing on us and judging us, then it looks like we need to have a lawgiver (a someone, not a something).

Mere Christianity, Book 1, Chapter 5 by C.S. Lewis



- Insofar as you believe in anything called either justice or progress, you believe in better/worse, just/unjust, the reality of the moral law, and therefore you are committed to a reality of a lawgiver.