**Trinity U**

*educate - equip – engage*

**Loving the Lord with Your Mind – A Conversation about *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis**

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**Class Subject:** *Mere Christianity* has been named the most important Christian book of the last century by *Christianity Today.* Millions of copies have been sold around the world. Reading *Mere Christianity* can be somewhat challenging, but through group discussion and a very helpful study guide, the beauty and wisdom contained in *Mere Christianity* will unfold for all readers. This book will strengthen your mind and inform your faith.

 This ten-week study will cover the first three “Books” of *Mere Christianity* (selections from the wonderful fourth Book may be covered if there is time).

 *Mere Christianity* presents a powerful message to those searching for the truth. In Book 1, Lewis relies on logical arguments to establish his points, as opposed to citing religious writings. By logical progression, Lewis eliminates all worldviews except Christianity; the eliminated worldviews include atheism, pantheism, agnosticism, materialism, Judaism, and Islam.

 In Book 2, Lewis lays out the basic beliefs of Christianity in a way that is irresistibly powerful and plain. Many people have come to know the Lord by reading and contemplating Lewis’ straightforward writing in this Book.

Book 3 presents a beautiful discussion of Christian behavior, including discussions on morality, marriage, charity, faith, hope, and forgiveness.

Throughout the lessons, Scripture references will be given to bolster and illuminate the text. The study guide provides plain-language summaries and explanations of each chapter, accompanied by several meaningful questions for consideration and discussion for each week.

**Required Books:** *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis

 *Mere Christianity: Discussion and Study Guide for the Book by C. S. Lewis* by Joseph McRae Mellichamp

(New paperback versions of both books may be found on Amazon for ~$10.00 each; used versions are available for as little as ~$2.00 each)

**Optional Book:** *Mere Christianity Study Guide* by Steven Urban (typically ~$14 on Amazon)

**Schedule:** Week 1: Book 1, Chapters 1 and 2

 Week 2: Book 1, Chapter 3 and 4

 Week 3: Book 1, Chapter 5 and Review

 Week 4: Book 2, Chapters 1 and 2

 Week 5: Book 2, Chapters 3 and 4

 Week 6: Book 2, Chapter 5 and Review

 Week 7: Book 3, Chapters 1, 2, and 3

 Week 8: Book 3, Chapters 4, 5, and 6

 Week 9: Book 3, Chapters 7 and 8

 Week 10:Book 3, Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12

**The “Why”:** Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.This is the first and great commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

 “No one grows into a Godliness he or she knows nothing about. The word of God must go through our mind if it’s going to change our heart and our life.” –Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciples for the Christian Life*, 1991

“If we do not use the mind which God has given us, we condemn ourselves to spiritual superficiality.” –John Stott, *Your Mind Matters*, 1972