

### C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* Book I (Ch. 1-5)

"When you have reached your own room, be kind to those who have chosen different doors and to those who are still in the hall. If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them. That is one of the rules common to the whole house" (Lewis, *Preface to Mere Christianity*)

#### Book I: Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe

##### *Chapter 1: The Law of Human Nature*

- "Human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave a certain way, and cannot easily get rid of it" (7).
- "They do not in fact behave in that way" (7).

##### *Chapter 2: Some Objections*

- Objection 1: "Isn't what you call the Moral Law simply our herd instinct and hasn't it been developed just like all our other instincts?" (8).
- Objection 2: "Isn't what you call the Moral Law just a social convention, something that is put into us by education?" (9).

##### *Chapter 3: The Reality of the Law*

- What does Lewis mean by referring to morality as a "law"?
- How does it differ from other so-called "laws"?
- The key is this: OUGHT.

##### *Chapter 4: What Lies Behind the Law*

- What, then, does the Law of Human Nature reveal about the Universe?
  - Materialist View
  - Religious View
- "In the Moral Law somebody of something from beyond the material world is getting at us" (24).

##### *Chapter 5: We Have Cause to Be Uneasy*

- If there is a power beyond the universe, then we are in a bind. This being is both good and terrifying.
- "Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are still only playing with religion. Goodness is either the great safety or the great danger—according to the way you react to it. And we have reacted the wrong way" (26).