

# Simply Put, What is a Christian?

## What if the Goal is Union?

January 21, 2024

### John 14v15-31

**15** 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[g] to be with you for ever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

**18** 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. **19** In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' **23** Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

**25** 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. **26** But the Advocate,[i] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. **27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. **28** You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. **29** And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. **30** I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; **31** but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

### Suggested Mere Christianity Reading:

Week 1 (January 14-20): Preface, Book I (3-32)  
Week 2 (January 21-27): Book II (35-68)  
Week 3 (January 28-Feb 3): Book III: Chapter 1 & 2 (pgs 69-81)  
Week 4 (February 4-10): Book III: Chapters 9-12 (pgs 129-152)  
Week 5 (February 11-17): Book IV: Chapters 8-11 (pgs 195-227)

Why do you follow Jesus?

How has that changed over time?

Union?

Is that okay? Is it normal?

Mere Christianity  
pgs 62-63

Is there an ideal answer?

A life which can be  
neglected, lost, or  
invested in?

John 17v3  
And this is eternal life, that they  
may know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have  
sent.

The "Obstinate Toy Soldier"

Why the seemingly universal  
idea about werewolves,  
vampires, and other  
creatures struggling between  
two forms of life?

How do we invest in the life of  
Christ in us?

Galatians 2v19b-20  
I have been crucified with  
Christ; and it is no longer I  
who live, but it is Christ who  
lives in me. And the life I now  
live in the flesh I live by faith  
in the Son of God, who loved  
me and gave himself for me.

Lewis: "Baptism, Communion,  
and Belief"

Dallas Willard's Golden  
Triangle: Unwanted  
Circumstances, the Holy  
Spirit, and Spiritual  
Disciplines

**Books:** *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis  
**Songs:** The Solid Rock, Be Thou My Vision, Holy Spirit,  
Mystery, Man of Sorrows, Blessed Assurance  
**Podcast:** Veritas Forum: Where is God in Suffering? - John  
Lennox (April 20, 2023)  
**Looking to Connect?:** One of the staff would love to  
meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To  
schedule a time please visit our website and click on the  
"Meet with Staff" button on the home page.