

## Mere Christianity

The term came from the 17th-century Christian writer, Richard Baxter (1615-1691), chaplain in one of Cromwell's regiments, chaplain to Charles II. Became a Nonconformist minister, hymnist, author, and it means the basic form and beliefs of Christianity that all traditions and denominations accept. (24) In it and in other writings, "he attacks the spirit of the times as 'temporal provincialism'—the contradiction of our age that says truth is all relative, and yet our relativism is absolutely right" (42).

### The Influence of *Mere Christianity* (Mark Noll)

More than 11,000,000 sold. Translated into many languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and Spanish (Narnia is in at least 41 languages). The first "good Christian book" that John Stott recommends in his *Basic Christianity*.

BBC Broadcast Title   Date   Chapter Title in *Mere Christianity*  
**Series 1:** "Right and Wrong: A Clue to the Meaning of the Universe" (Wednesdays from 7:45 to 8:00 p.m., August 6 through September 6, 1941). This became Book 1 in *Mere Christianity*, and the chapter numbers are designated after the chapter titles.

Common Decency	August 6, 1941	The Law of Human Nature, ch. 1
Scientific Law and Moral Law	August 13, 1941	The Reality of the Law, ch. 3
Materialism or Religion	August 20, 1941	What Lies Behind the Law, ch. 4
What Can We Do About It?	August 27, 1941	We Have Cause to Be Uneasy, ch. 5
Answers to Listeners' Questions	September 6, 1941	Some Objections, ch. 2

**Series 2:** "What Christians Believe" (Sundays from 4:45 to 5:00 p.m., January 11 through February 15, 1942). This became Book 2 in *Mere Christianity*.

First Talk	January 11, 1942	The Rival Conceptions of God, ch. 1
Second Talk	January 18, 1942	The Invasion, ch. 2
Third Talk	February 1, 1942	The Shocking Alternative, ch. 3
Fourth Talk	February 8, 1942	The Perfect Penitent, ch. 4
Fifth Talk	February 15, 1942	The Practical Conclusion, ch. 5

**Series 3:** "Christian Behavior" (Sundays from 2:50 to 3:00 p.m., September 20 through November 8, 1942). This became Book 3 in *Mere Christianity*. Some of the chapters in *Mere Christianity* were never broadcast (chapters 2, 6, 9, and 10).

First Talk	September 20, 1942	The Three Parts of Morality, ch. 1 The "Cardinal Virtues," ch. 2
Second Talk	September 27, 1942	Social Morality, ch. 3
Third Talk	October 4, 1942	Morality and Psychoanalysis, ch. 4
Fourth Talk	October 11, 1942	Sexual Morality, ch. 5 Christian Marriage, ch. 6
Fifth Talk	October 18, 1942	Forgiveness, ch. 7
Sixth Talk	October 25, 1942	The Great Sin, ch. 8 Charity, ch. 9 Hope, ch. 10
Seventh Talk	November 1, 1942	Faith, ch. 11
Eighth Talk	November 8, 1942	Faith, ch. 12

**Series 4:** "Beyond Personality: The Christian View of God" (Tuesdays evenings from 10:20 to 10:35 p.m., February 22 through March 30, 1944). This became Book 4 in *Mere Christianity*. Some of the chapters in *Mere Christianity* were never broadcast (chapters 3, 6, 9, and 10).

Making and Begetting	February 22, 1944	Making and Begetting, ch. 1
The Three-Personal God	February 29, 1944	The Three-Personal God, ch. 2 Time and Beyond Time, ch. 3
Good Infection	March 7, 1944	Good Infection, ch. 4
The Obstinate Toy Soldiers	March 14, 1944	The Obstinate Toy Soldiers, ch. 5 Two Notes, ch. 6
Let's Pretend	March 21, 1944	Let's Pretend, ch. 7
Is Christianity Hard or Easy?	March 28, 1944	Is Christianity Hard or Easy?, ch. 8 Counting the Cost, ch. 9
The New Man	April 4, 1944	Nice People or New Men, ch. 10 The New Men, ch. 11