



Summer Reading 2021 - 11th Grade

The 11th Grade will be required to do their summer reading on ***Mere Christianity*** by **C.S. Lewis**. *Mere Christianity* is a book that C.S. Lewis adopted from a series of radio talks that he had prior to 1944. His purpose in the talks and the book is to discuss points of belief for Christians. He doesn't talk about doctrines that separate denominations within Christianity but rather what truths the broad aspect of Christianity is built on. In his introduction he says the following.

"I hope no reader will suppose that "mere" Christianity is here put forward as an alternative to the creeds of the existing communions—as if a man could adopt it in preference to Congregationalism or Greek Orthodoxy or anything else. It is more like a hall out of which doors open into several rooms. If I can bring anyone into that hall I shall have done what I attempted. But it is in the rooms, not in the hall, that there are fires and chairs and meals. The hall is a place to wait in, a place from which to try the various doors, not a place to live in. For that purpose the worst of the rooms (whichever that may be) is, I think, preferable. It is true that some people may find they have to wait in the hall for a considerable time, while others feel certain almost at once which door they must knock at. I do not know why there is this difference, but I am sure God keeps no one waiting unless He sees that it is good for him to wait. When you do get into your room you will find that the long wait has done you some kind of good which you would not have had otherwise. But you must regard it as waiting, not as camping. You must keep on praying for light: and, of course, even in the hall, you must begin trying to obey the rules which are common to the whole house. And above all you must be asking which door is the true one; not which pleases you best by its paint and panelling. In plain language, the question should never be: "Do I like that kind of service?" but "Are these doctrines true: Is holiness here? Does my conscience move me towards this? Is my reluctance to knock at this door due to my pride, or my mere taste, or my personal dislike of this particular door-keeper?" 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"

Excerpt From
Mere Christianity
C.S. Lewis

<https://books.apple.com/us/book/mere-christianity/id1558763431>

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When school begins in the fall we will start class by discussing this book. We will have daily discussion questions that will be answered for a grade as well as grades for daily class discussion.

If you have any questions please contact Kraig Givens at kraiggivens@oca.oakwoodbc.org.