

MERE CHRISTIANITY

Critical Analysis Journal



Stacy Farrell

PRAISE FOR THE JOURNAL

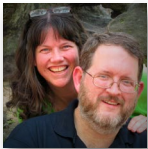
“Between two bookends on a shelf above my desk sit the handful of books that have been most influential in my walk with God. It is a very small group of only a half-dozen titles. In the center of them, honored above all the rest, is C.S. Lewis's classic, *Mere Christianity*. Even to call it my ‘favorite’ of all the books I have read, while true, fails to plumb the depths of the foundational impact *Mere Christianity* has had on the development of my Christian faith. I have read it five or six times, more often than I have read any other book in my life. My recommendation of *Mere Christianity*, and this excellent study-journal based on it, is enthusiastic and unqualified. This may be an experience that will change your life. One thing is certain, you will never look at what Christianity is at its core in the same way again.”

—Michael Phillips

Editor and biographer of Lewis's mentor George MacDonald
Author of the new youth fantasy, *The Sword, the Garden, and the King*



“Stacy Farrell hits another home run with the *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*. With insightful questions and thoughtful responses, she'll guide students into thinking deeply about the most important issues of life while reading C.S. Lewis's classic defense of Christianity.”



—Hal & Melanie Young

Authors of *Raising Real Men* and *My Beloved and My Friend*

“*Mere Christianity* is one of a handful of books that I consistently recommend (or give) to intellectual skeptics of the Christian faith. There has never been a mind quite like C. S. Lewis in the history of the Christian church. Stacy Farrell has done a great service by providing insightful study questions for students and adults who want to work critically through this Christian masterpiece. I applaud her for this important publication.”

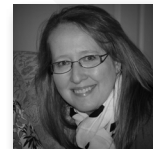
—Israel Wayne

Director of Family Renewal, LLC.
Editor for ChristianWorldview.net

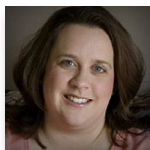


"If truly understanding what it means when you say you are a 'Christian' sometimes baffles you, then this book is the key to better understanding. The *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* takes what is already an invaluable resource in C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* to a new level, allowing the reader to dig deeper into their own thought processes. As a homeschool mom and truth-seeker, I am delighted to recommend this book for personal, homeschool or family/small group study."

—Marcy Crabtree
benandme.com



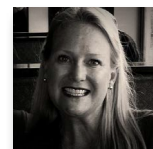
"The *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal's* thought provoking questions bring a new level of understanding to this powerful text from C. S. Lewis. The *Journal* works well for a family discussion but would work equally well in a coop, small group, or a Sunday school setting."



—Amy Blevins
homeschoolencouragement.com

"Stacy Farrell of the Home School Adventure Co. has, once again, gotten straight to the heart of the matter with her new *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*. What an amazing tool for homeschool families, Bible studies, and personal growth. I am so excited to share this valuable resource with my three boys! Using the journal and discussion format provides a fun and interesting opportunity to become more grounded in faith, gain a more solid biblical foundation, deepen understanding, and develop a closer walk with Christ. The critical thinking exercises will serve to grow many hearts and minds for Jesus."

—Kelli Becton
homeschoolingadventurez.com

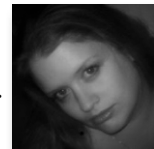


“Stacy Farrell, in the *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*, tackles a difficult subject and a challenging book. The *Critical Analysis Journal* gently leads and guides, but never tells, allowing the student to examine and discover for themselves difficult answers, concepts and beliefs found in Lewis' excellent apologetic for the Christian faith, *Mere Christianity*. This journal will not only teach your student how to analyze text, but how to understand the author behind the text, and ultimately, like all good analysis does, delve deeper into knowing and understanding one's personal belief system more fully. For students in Jr. and Sr. High; very highly recommended.



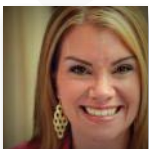
—Lisa Nehring
goldengrasses.blogspot.com

“I used the *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* with my sons, and we all absolutely loved it. The journal questions are not simply intended as a review of the material contained within the book. Instead, they are thought provoking tools meant to encourage students' Heaven deeper analysis and reflection of the material. I feel that this journal is an excellent source for introducing apologetics into the homeschool, as it encourages students to carefully examine and discuss their own personal theological viewpoints. I think this journal is a wonderful way of sharing Lewis's classic work with a whole new generation of homeschoolers.”



—Lisa Carter
oursimplekindalife.wordpress.com

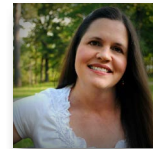
“The *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* is a great reading guide that helps my daughter and me to understand the text of *Mere Christianity*. I love the typeable format that makes it easy to use. I probably wouldn't have read *Mere Christianity* on my own! This Critical Analysis Journal helps to keep us focused while reading and provides great metacognition and discussion on biblical worldview topics with my daughter.”



—Jennifer Lambert
royallittlelambs.com

“As a mom who has homeschooled for 16 years, I’ve come across lots of curriculums and Christian/Bible resources. I am very impressed with Stacy’s *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*, and I definitely recommend it to other homeschooling families! This journal helps make the book more easily understood and more useful to those who might otherwise have found it a difficult resource. Stacy has a kind heart and a true desire to share God’s love with others, and it shows in her work.”

—Wendy Hilton
hiphomeschoolmoms.com



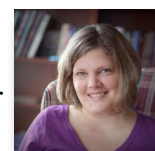
“Stacy has done it again! She has helped us to slow down and digest a meaty topic with her *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*. I, for one, have a very difficult time understanding Lewis’s works, but Stacy has done her homework and created a guide to simplify the process. I highly recommend it to anyone who needs to read *Mere Christianity* for a high school or college course.... It can also be used by homeschoolers interested in deepening their knowledge of Scripture.”



—Jarm Del Boccio
4ambassadorssofchrist.blogspot.com

“*The Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* is full of thought-provoking questions that guide us towards a deeper understanding of the commonalities amongst Christians, as discussed in *Mere Christianity*. Even more, Stacy helps us to delve further into understanding ourselves through the discussion of C.S. Lewis’s points in the book.”

—Wendy Woerner
www.wendywoerner.com



“Christian homeschooling parents want to ensure that their children complete their education with a biblical worldview intact before they head off to college and onto the rest of life. Curriculum decisions are made based on this significant goal. The *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* by Stacy Farrell is an effective tool to help parents meet this goal. Little did I know when introduced to the *Journal*, that I would find not just another ‘book study’—but a challenging, thought-provoking, and conversation-building companion to a classic in Christian apologetics. The *Journal* is sure to become its own classic in homeschooling circles, or for any parent...homeschooling or not, who wants to introduce their student to the brilliant mind of C. S. Lewis.”

—Gina Glenn

acherishedkeeper.com



“There are so many things I like about Stacy Farrell's *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*. First, Stacy chose to use journaling as the means for students to approach this mostly familiar work. It occurs to me that that is, after all, the best way to approach this most theological of Lewis' corpus. It moves the focus from dogma and Lewis to the reader, the one journaling. Next, Stacy uses critical thinking questions to move the reader up the thinking ladder from application questions to evaluation questions. Ingenious! My favorite is Book 4, Chapter 7, ‘Let's Pretend.’ Stacy's ability to demystify the most complicated theological concept with the simplest question is extraordinary: ‘Would you rather a person pretended to be nice when they were actually nasty? Why or why not?’ I highly recommend this vital contribution to the study of the works of the great C. S. Lewis.”



—Dr. James Stobaugh

For Such A Time As This Ministries

MERE CHRISTIANITY

Critical Analysis Journal

by Stacy Farrell

✧ A Home School Adventure Co. Publication ✧

Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal

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DEDICATED WITH LOVE

and

GREAT APPRECIATION

to my dear husband Roger Casey Farrell
and my precious sons, Roger Dean and Ryan,
and my faithful sister, Joyce,
who continually amazes me
by the speed and quality of her “writerly insight,”
and my faithful sister-in-Christ, Marcy,
(former labor & delivery nurse)
who has served as midwife
for this resource,

and,

to the One who *is* the Meaning of the Universe,
the One I believe,
Who guides my behavior,
and Who,
although He revealed Himself,
remains The Great Mystery—
my Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

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INTRODUCTION

Christians, have we forgotten who we are? (Did we ever really know?) There is a scene in *The Chronicles of Narnia* where an enchantress tries to recapture the Narnian Prince and enslave his rescuers. She entrances them with dark magic, soothing music, and silver laughs. She persuades them that the world to which they belong and the Lion they love are only make-believe—a childish dream. As they slowly succumb to her seduction, one of them resists and boldly declares that even if what she says is true, their make-believe world “licks [her] real world hollow.” Aware that it will hurt him, he bravely stomps out her fire, burning his feet but freeing his companions.

In this “Age of Tolerance,” Christians are in danger of forgetting (or never learning) what distinguishes the worldview of the believer from that of the unbeliever. Resisting the seductive siren of secularism comes at a cost. C. S. Lewis understood this. He was passed over for a professorship at Oxford more than once because he wrote “Christian” books.

Mere Christianity is one such book. In it, Lewis boldly (yet respectfully) engages his readers in all things moral, including sex, religion, and politics. Gracious, yet frank, he eschews political correctness and, instead, offers a biblical perspective.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

If you are using the *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* with a middle school or high school student, be forewarned: *Lewis traverses deep waters and mature themes*. However, he does so with great skill and grace.

The world shouts its perspective from myriad media screens and billboards. (There's almost no escaping it!) Rather than allow the world to introduce moral matters to your children (and it will), seize the opportunity to present a perspective they are not likely to stumble upon while surfing the web (and discuss these subjects with them yourself!).

The *Journal* may also be used with a group or as an independent study for teenagers or adults. It provides 10-16 questions for each chapter which can be discussed in:

☞ homeschools

☞ classrooms

☞ Sunday schools

☞ families

☞ co-ops

☞ small groups

The digital edition of the *Journal* is a typeable PDF that offers the option to type your answers directly onto the form. **You can receive the *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal Answer Key* when you register your resource at <http://homeschooladventure.activehosted.com/form/69>.**

PLEASE NOTE: *The answer key is only provided as a guide. Many of the Journal questions solicit personal opinion or may have multiple correct answers.*

ONE FINAL THOUGHT

Lewis wrestles with profound philosophical and controversial cultural issues. His chapters on sexual morality and Christian marriage offer readers the opportunity to employ critical thinking skills as they examine subjects from a biblical worldview.

You might not agree with all that he says, *nor should you*; after all, he is a merely a man. Do not expect to “follow him” (there is only One we should follow) but, rather, sit with him as you would sit with a friend in a café, sipping from a steaming cup, leisurely discussing at great depth those timeless philosophical questions which inevitably arise in the mind of any truth seeker. ☞

ENJOY!



PREFACE

(Opening remarks by C. S. Lewis)

Critical Analysis Journal

∞ PREFACE ∞

1. Why did C. S. Lewis remove from this edition the conversational contractions and italics he used in the original publication?

2. Is Lewis reluctant to share his own choice of denomination with his readers? Why or why not?

1

3. Why did he intentionally avoid promoting one Christian denomination over another?

~ Critical Analysis

JOURNAL

4. Why did he avoid tackling matters of deep theological importance or dispute?

5. Can you assume from his silence on a given topic that he considers it of little importance or that he is uncertain of his own position? Why is he silent?

2

6. How did C. S. Lewis protect against misrepresenting other denominations in his effort to present beliefs held in common by all Christians?

MERE CHRISTIANITY

JOURNAL

7. What does Lewis mean when he uses the word *Christian*?

8. Lewis said, "When a man who accepts the Christian doctrine lives unworthy of it, it is much clearer to say he is a bad Christian than to say he is not a Christian." Do you agree? Why or why not?

9. According to Lewis, what is the only legitimate basis upon which to select a house of worship?

~ Critical Analysis

JOURNAL

10. What does Lewis conclude is the proper way to relate to members of denominations different from your own?

BOOK ONE

Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe

Critical Analysis Journal

∞ 1 - THE LAW OF HUMAN NATURE ∞

1. What does Lewis say we can discern from listening to people quarrel?
2. Why did people once call “The Law of Human Nature” merely “The Law of Nature”?
3. What makes “The Law of Human Nature” distinct from other Natural Laws?

JOURNAL

4. How does Lewis say our reaction to the atrocities committed by the Nazis supports his argument for a common sense among men of what is right and what is wrong?

5. What does Lewis say we will discover if we take time to compare the moral teachings of the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Hindus, Chinese, Greeks, and Romans?

8

6. Have you ever heard of a country where a man felt proud of double-crossing all the people who had been kindest to him? If so, describe it. If not, why do you think such a place would or would not exist?

JOURNAL

7. Do you think our present culture admires selfishness? Explain why or why not.
8. Lewis argues that even those who claim to deny the existence of moral absolutes do believe in a real right and wrong. What evidence does he use to support his argument?
9. What does Lewis describe as a common response to moral failure?

∞ Critical Analysis

JOURNAL

10. Paraphrase the two points Lewis makes in his concluding paragraphs.

10

MERE CHRISTIANITY / BOOK 1

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Stacy Farrell worked as a writer, researcher, and consultant before she embarked on her family's homeschooling adventure.

As a freelancer, she wrote a broad range of materials for corporate, Christian, and non-profit clients. She also managed a law firm that specialized in civil rights litigation and constitutional law.

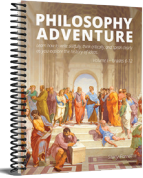
Although her background equipped her to teach communication skills, much study and prayer were required before she was ready to teach critical thinking from a biblical worldview.

Her heartfelt focus was to raise her sons to become “men who understand the times and know what to do” (1 Chronicles 12:32).

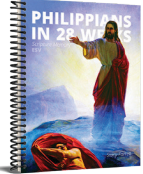
Stacy speaks at homeschool conferences. She publishes articles in leading Christian and homeschool magazines. She loves to write, speak, and teach—but considers her role as wife to Roger and mother to two precious sons to be her greatest privilege and work.



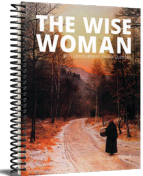
Home School Adventure Co. Resources



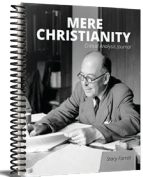
Philosophy Adventure™—Pre-Socratics—designed to help students 6th-12th grade cultivate and defend a biblical worldview by teaching them how to write skillfully, think critically, and speak articulately as they explore the history of ideas.



Philippians in 28 Weeks™—a simple and painless way to memorize an entire book of Scripture



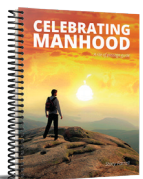
The Wise Woman with Literary Analysis Journal Questions—enchants readers while it contrasts the ugliness of pride, selfishness and conceit with the beauty of humility, sacrifice, and compassion.



Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal—a powerful tool to strengthen critical thinking while cultivating a biblical worldview. A companion to Lewis's classic work, the *Journal* can be used for independent study with teenagers or adults, or as a group study in families, homeschools, co-ops, classrooms, Sunday school, and small groups.



Creative Freewriting Adventure: a journey into freewriting—a collection of thought-provoking freewriting exercises designed to inspire creativity and critical thinking, even in previously reluctant writers!



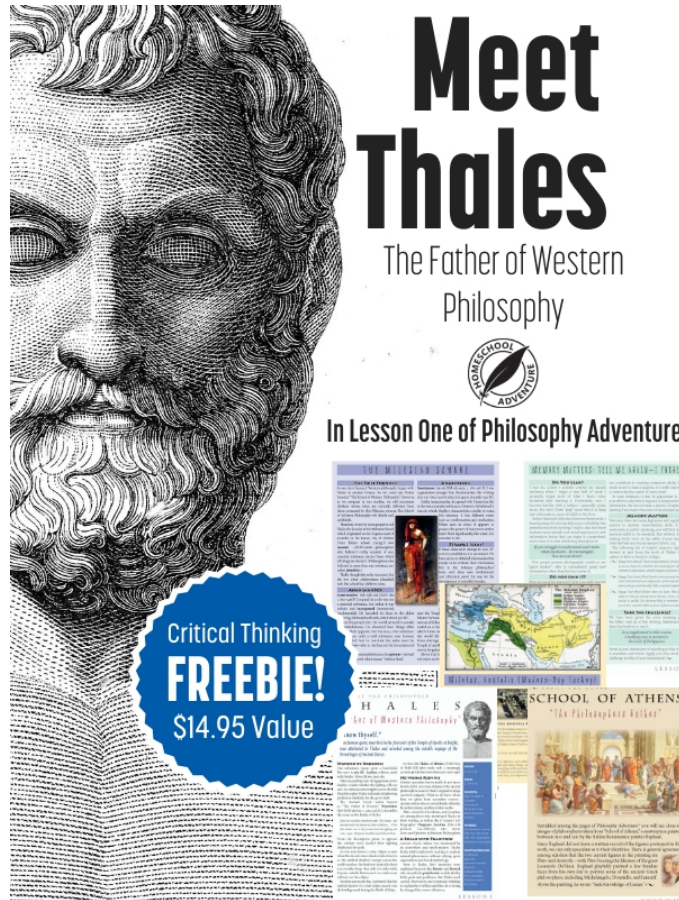
Celebrating Manhood, a rite of passage guide—a blueprint for hosting a special evening that will acknowledge your son as an adult and welcome him into the world of men.



I'd Rather Be Your Mommy—a sweet bedtime story (and stealth worldview book) that tells your little ones how much you love them. They will love hearing over and over: there is nothing you'd rather be than Mommy!

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HAVE WE FORGOTTEN WHOSE WE ARE?

Let us remember together

In this "Age of Tolerance," Christians are in danger of forgetting (or never learning) what distinguishes a Christian worldview from other worldviews. The Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal is a powerful tool to strengthen critical thinking while cultivating a biblical worldview. A companion to Lewis's classic work, the Journal can be used for independent study with teenagers or adults, or as a group study in families, homeschools, co-ops, classrooms, Sunday school, and small groups.

"Stacy Farrell has done a great service by providing insightful study questions for students and adults who want to work critically through this Christian masterpiece. I applaud her for this important publication."

ISRAEL WAYNE

Director of Family Renewal, LLC.

"My recommendation of *Mere Christianity*, and this excellent study-journal based on it, is enthusiastic and unqualified. This may be an experience that will change your life. One thing is certain, you will never look at what Christianity is at its core in the same way again."

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Editor of Lewis' mentor George MacDonald

"Stacy Farrell hits another home run with the *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal*. With insightful questions and thoughtful responses, she'll guide students into thinking deeply about the most important issues of life while reading C.S. Lewis's classic defense of Christianity."

HAL & MELANIE YOUNG

*Authors of *Raising Real Men**

