

If C. S. Lewis Were Here Today, What Would He Say?

To say what Lewis would say requires an omniscience that escapes me. Nevertheless, I think it is fair to say: What did Lewis once say that still has great relevance today? In his day many things that Lewis said and wrote were noteworthy; today some of these same things come to us with a prophetic clarion call. Among these were: his arguments on behalf of objective value (or, what he called the Tao) in *The Abolition of Man*; his teaching about the dignity of man (“there are no ordinary people”) and the depravity of man; and, his injunction to those preparing for ministry “Woe to you if you do not evangelize”. This seminar will focus on these important ideas in Lewis with a view to their timeliness today.

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I. Session One Outline:

The argument from *The Abolition of Man*: more needed now than it was in his day.

A. Chapter One—Men Without Chests.

B. Chapter Two—The Way.

C. Chapter Three—The Abolition of Man.

D. The Argument Evaluated

E. The Argument Applied to Beauty and Morality

II. Session Two Outline:

The dignity and depravity of man: a call to civility and justice.

A. The Nature of Man

1) Dignity: Made in the Image of God

- What this means theologically

2) Depravity: Fallen

- What this does not mean anthropologically

B. How this impacts civility and justice

1) Justice and virtue

2) Civility and Courtesy

III. Session Three Outline:

The Gospel and evangelism “Woe to you if you do not evangelize”—C. S. Lewis . See in light of Paul’s injunction “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing you have in Christ Jesus”. Philemon 6 (NIV)

A. We grow through the questions others ask.

B. We grow through the scrutiny of our lives.

C. We grow through getting to know God in His workplace.

D. Application

IV. Session Four Outline: C. S. Lewis's use of Story in Evangelism

A. Lewis did not turn to story as a consequence of his debate with G.E.M. Anscombe at the Oxford Socratic Club.

B. Story was always a tool found in Lewis's rhetorical toolbox.

C. Lewis's use of story for evangelistic purposes.