

BE A CHRIST

By Robert V. Thompson

In our culture, Jesus is often presented as someone who can take us wherever we want to go. There is one proviso, however. We must buy the whole bundle of beliefs that make up the Jesus package. It's all or nothing. If we don't believe in a "virgin birth," then we can't possibly believe that Jesus was the Son of God. If we don't believe that his death on the cross saved believers from their sins, then we must think that Jesus was a mere human being and we just don't get it. If we don't interpret the Bible literally then we don't understand what the Bible is really saying, or accept it as the authoritative Word of God. Unless we swallow the complete Jesus package hook, line, and sinker, we are lost.

But what are the "right" things to believe and who has the authority to decide? Whom do we trust to decide what or who is on the list? How can one person claim to be any more inspired by the Holy Spirit than another? Who has it figured out enough to insist on being right?

Christ is the Christian word for the divine energy that connects everything. In Buddhism this power is called the Buddha. In Judaism some call it the Shekinah. In Hinduism it is called the Atman, in Sikhism it is known as Naam. Every religious and spiritual tradition understands this power in a unique way, and this only magnifies the mystery of it.

Christ power always manifests itself as love, compassion, non-violence, forgiveness, perfect understanding, and peace. And it would transform the world if each one of us would recognize that we all have the same mission in life; that is, to be Christ, or Buddha, or a rose by any other name.

Christ power is divine and holds everything in the universe together. Sometimes known as the cosmic or universal Christ, this Divine energy is what becomes incarnate in physical forms. It was first revealed in a Mediterranean peasant named Jesus but it is not limited to Jesus.

Christ is not a particular identity but a universal power. This power came through but was not limited to Jesus. This Christ power is neither male nor female. It is a compassionate life-giving power that comes through each and every human being. Christ power breaks through whenever we feel closeness, connection, or unity with another living creature. This Christ energy is what gives us the capacity for compassion. Christ is the divine river that flows through us all.

Christ, like love, is a process. To relate to Christ as an external truth is to be ingested and consumed. Relating to Christ as an eternal truth or redeemer turns Christ into a product. Holding a belief is not the same as living the power of it.

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As I See It - Rev. Tony Duncan

Meister Eckhart spoke of the real way to know Christ when he wrote, "Do you want to know where to find Christ? Your soul is Christ." Eckhart suggests that the likeness of God is planted within the soul like a seed. It grows in us.

We are born with Christ in us. Our task, as Ekhart puts it is to be good, wise, and industrious farmers of this inner seed. If we are the least bit open, it grows. This Christ power doesn't come to us from outside. It happens through us, arising from within.

This Christ power is an inner whisper. It is the still, small voice that speaks to us in every encounter, every relationship, from every being. It is the teacher and doctor within. It is the power to understand without criticizing, to perceive without passing judgment, to comprehend without analyzing.

Just imagine how Christianity would be different if we lived beyond our belief systems and knew to be Christ rather than a Christian.

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Tony would be more than happy to chat about the above article with anyone who wants to.

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