

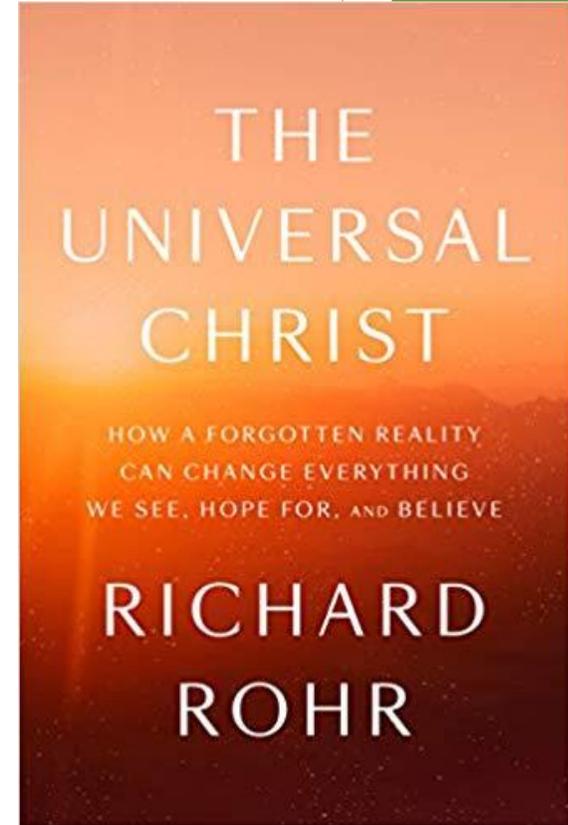
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Chapter 11

This Is My Body

Life is the destiny you are bound to refuse until you have consented to die.

--W. H. Auden, "For the Time Being"





50 years as a priest
Communion with God
Communion with God's People
Communion with Self

Jesus did not say, "This is my spirit"
but "This is my body"

many left...

Giving our body is intimate, deeply personal, often sexual.

John uses *sarx* (and Paul opposite of spirit)

Jesus is precisely giving us his full bodily humanity more than his spiritualized divinity! "Eat me."



We know how to receive another person, but God?

In our hearts we have a hard time believing we are worthy!

“Lord I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.

“Real Presence”

Sets the stage for “carnal knowledge” of God”
(normally seen as spirit)

Only real perquisite for participation or “worthiness” is your capacity for presence yourself.

(Love affairs never happen just in the mind.)

Only presence can know presence. And our real presence can know Real Presence.

*Not just about the bread right in front of him,
but of the whole universe*





The Universal Incarnate Presence

This is my Blood (even scarier: symbolism of intoxicating wine and speak over all of suffering humanity)

Contact with blood was usually ritual impurity for a Jew. Vivid rituals are the only ones that have much psychic effect

Ceremonies normally confirm and celebrate the status quo and deny the shadow side of things... true ritual offers an alternative universe, where the shadow is named.

Mystics and liberation theologians... inviting us to drink wine as his blood is an invitation to live in bodily solidarity “with the blood of every person whose blood has been unjustly shed on this earth...





The Universal Incarnate Presence

A true believer is eating what he or she is afraid to see and afraid to accept: *The universe is the Body of God, both in its essence and in its suffering.*

“I did not come for the healthy, but for the sick,” Jesus said (Mark 2:17)

“Given for You”

- ▶ For you
- ▶ Given for you
- ▶ Broken for you
- ▶ Poured out for you

- ▶ Compare to love-making
 - ▶ An encounter of the heart

- ▶ Not
 - ▶ Think about this
 - ▶ Stare at this
 - ▶ Worship this
- ▶ “Eat this!”

- ▶ We need to absorb the divine desire for us - and for Itself.
- ▶ Real Presence: if we sacrifice Reality in the elements, we end up sacrificing the same Reality in ourselves!

