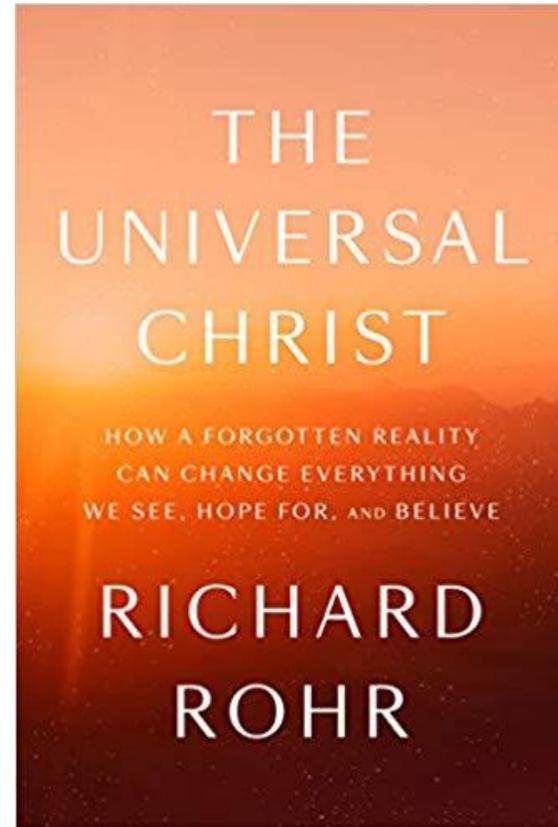


The Universal Christ: *Revealed in Us - as Us.*

*To turn from every-thing to one
face is to find oneself face to face
with everything..*

Elizabeth Bowen

The Heat of the Day.



Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

The people... me (Jesus)

archetypal spiritual pattern:
what they thought they always knew
to what they now fully recognize

Paul “Obsessed” “to demonstrate that
Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 9:22b)

“God revealed his Son *in me*” (Galatians
1:16)

Paul: interior & Psychological



Seeing and Recognizing Are Not the Same
Thing

Light and Enlightenment

Loving Jesus Loving Christ

Paul's criterion for authentic faith

“examine yourselves to make sure you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is really in you? If not, you have failed the test” (2 Corinthians 13:5-6)

Christ must first be acknowledged *within* before he can be recognized *without*

“There is only Christ. He is everything and he is in everything” (Colossians 3:11)

pantheist.... Vs.... panentheist
everything is God vs God lies within all things, but also transcends them.



En Cristo

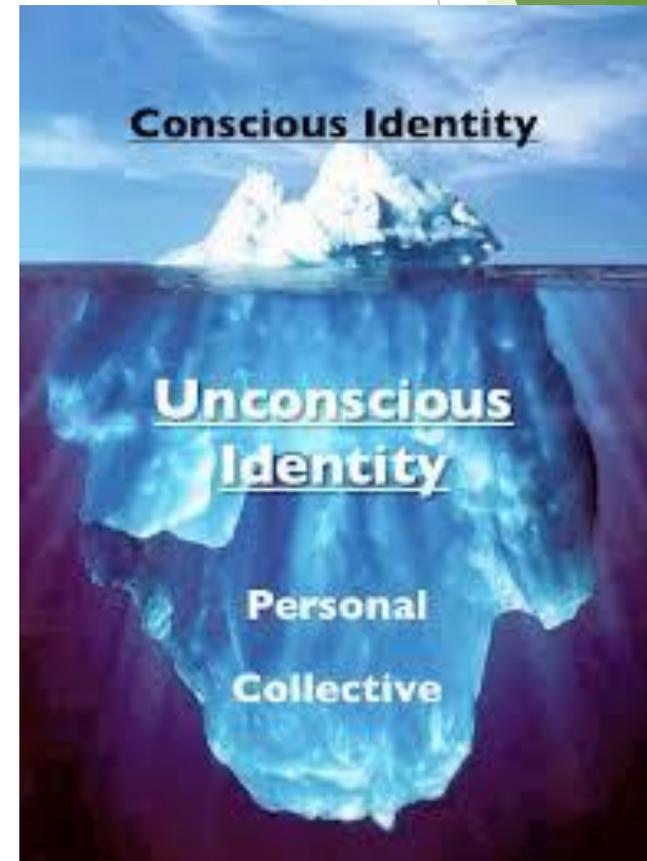
Paul's summary of his corporate understanding of salvation

- ▶ The gracious, participatory experience of salvation
- ▶ Humanity has never been separate from God (except by its own negative choice)
- ▶ We are all en Cristo
- ▶ The lone individual was far too small, insecure, and short-lived to bear either the “weight of glory” or the “burden of sin.”



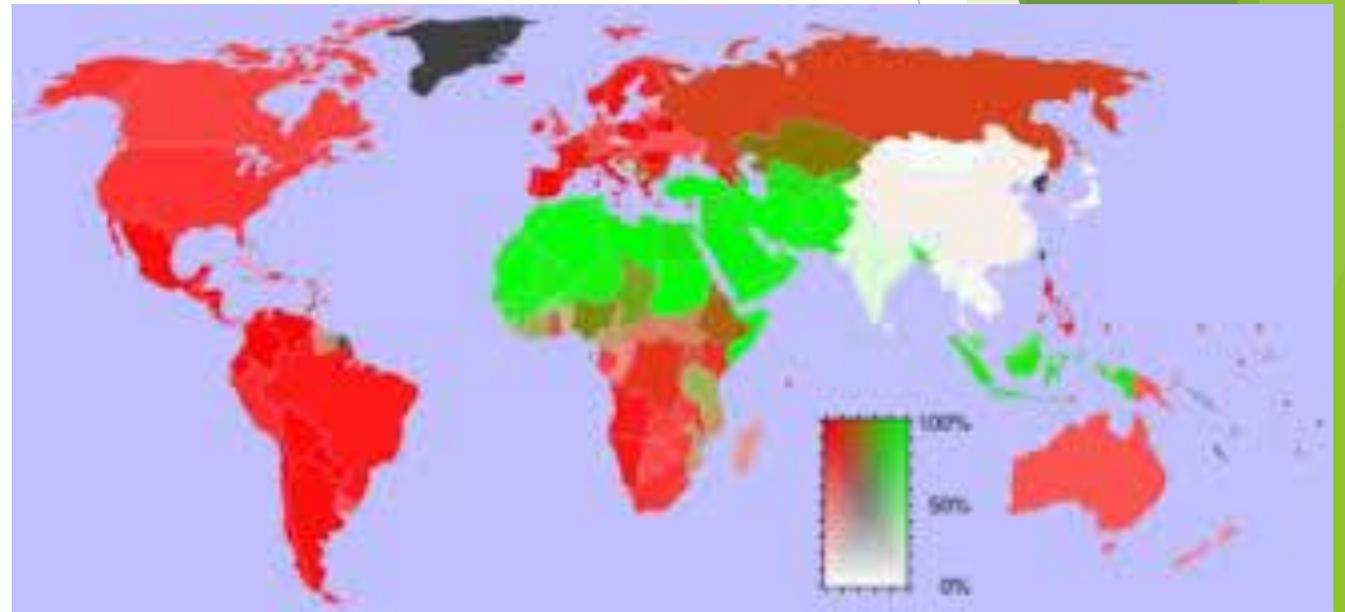
This bigger Divine identity the “mystery of his purpose the hidden plan he so kindly made *in Cristo* from the very beginning (Ephesians 1:9)

- ▶ Today we might call it the “collective unconscious.”
- ▶ Salvation for aul is an ontological and cosmological message before it ever becomes a moral or psychological one. Ephesians 1:3, 9
- ▶ Jesus tells the disciples to proclaim the Good News to “all creation” or “every creature,” Mk 16:15
- ▶ *I have never been separate from God, nor can I be, except in my mind.*



Science and business have taken over as the major explainers of meaning for the vast majority of people today.

- ▶ To legitimate our new religion in the Roman Empire, Christians felt that we had to prove that Jesus was independently divine.
- ▶ Christians focused more and more on Jesus *alone* and even *apart from* the Eternal Flow of the Trinity.
- ▶ *Hope cannot be had by the individual if everything is corporately hopeless.*
- ▶ *It is hard to heal individuals when the whole thing is seen as unhealable*



A Paradigm Shift: a major shift in one's assumptions or viewpoint.

- ▶ Jesus and Paul initiated a paradigm shift in their day. Their way of seeing became a whole new religion.
- ▶ The Universal Christ was too monumental a shift for the first two thousand years.
- ▶ Jesus modeled and exemplified the journey from physical incarnation, through a rather ordinary human existence, through trials and death, and into a Universal Presence unlimited by space and time (resurrection)



A Fully Participatory Universe

- ▶ “Early Christianity” 1st two thousand years.
- ▶ Massive implications of this understanding of a Cosmic Christ.
- ▶ Discard the notion of Christian salvation as a private evacuation plan (select few humans)
- ▶ John 17: Christ or Jesus is about unity and union!
- ▶ Paul: “wisdom,” “secret,” “hidden plan,” and “mystery.”



Great Love and Great Suffering (primitive & pre-Christian

- ▶ Only great love and great suffering are strong enough to take away our imperial ego protections and open us to authentic experiences of transcendence
- ▶ Jesus, is a clear message about universal love and necessary suffering as the divine pattern.
- ▶ Trinity: God endlessly outpouring and self emptying.

