

Divinity of Man

We must Begin with Ourselves and Our Senses

In the first lesson, we dealt with ... trying to build a foundation of reality...hopefully , we are trying to avoid the intellectualization that we normally attach to ...cosmology or metaphysical awareness of the universe,...and yet have ourselves totally on the outside looking in. We see pictures of the cosmology of the universe, (levels of consciousness and steps to eternity)...however, at some point, this is not what we learn, or this is not what is left over because if this is all that remains and we're still on the outside, we're still looking at a picture in a book. We're still trying to define or relate to something that is beautiful...and yet it's still out there somewhere.

...we must put ourselves in the picture and build ourselves into the structure. The Greeks had a phrase for it..."Know thyself". It's important, somewhere along the early stages in our quest to understand life and the universe, that we begin with ourselves, that we affirm, very simply, very easily: *I exist. I'm here. I think, I feel, I cease, I perceive, I am.* That's a starting point.

Just think about the physical body..as we say..'You do not live as a body. Your body is not you. You have a body." The "you" that has the body is far transcendent to the body, but the body is a very important part of self expression. At a certain level of consciousness, you express in and as this body, and this is where you are right now. Whatever else this body is, it is....It is flesh. It is sensual. It is beautiful. It is. The senses play a great role...man is not a sensual creature. You are not senses. You are not sensual. You are not sex, but you have these areas of expression through which the life process flows as a conduit. The senses are very important to you. They help you to provide a link with your environment.--**Through our senses we become aware of things around us. We become aware of people. We become aware of our environment. We become aware of the world in which we live.** We see colors. We hear sounds. We smell fragrances. We taste delicacies. We touch warm and cool things, and all of these are life and vitality because we sense them.

We are Environed By the Senses

The fact is, you can change your environment because your environment is your sensual awareness of that which environs you. You are environed by your own feelings, by your own thoughts. Everything that happens out there happens in you, and you can change what happens in you. Thus you can change what happens out there....Your environment and experiences through the senses, then is a part of you. It's a part of your life. Read pg 32.

Interesting notes about color, music, etc.Pg 33, regarding Shakespeare.

You're all right because you exist, because you see things, and because you have the ability to see them in all sorts of diverse ways.

Man as I Am-age and Likeness of God

It's a beautiful realization, but unfortunately the full sense of these word has been predominantly lost throughout Christian tradition because we have been led to believe that Paul refers here to Jesus, when he says, "Christ in you, your hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). We assume that

“Jesus in you is the hope of your life.” That isn’t what Paul had in mind at all and misunderstands the divine possibility that he’s suggesting.

Christ, you, which he refers to, is not Jesus at all. Jesus discovered this dimension of the Christ, and therefore he was called, “Jesus Christ,” but Christ is the God possibility within every person. It’s your hope of overcoming, it’s your hope of healing, your hope of growing and doing the greater things that Jesus promised you can do. It’s a depth of you, not something that can be added on, or put into, or something that you get just by believing in somebody else, even Jesus. It’s that which is the reality of your from the very beginning, the very foundation of your life.

The Book of Genesis says, “God created man in his own image, and after his likeness” (Genesis 1:26, 27). This may be the most majestic statement in the Bible. **The image is you as God sees you, and the likeness is that which you must work out in your consciousness and outform in your body and affairs....within you is the unborn possibility of limitless life. This is the image, and yours is the privilege of giving birth to it. This is the likeness. This is something that is your responsibility.** (Read para..It is your...) pg 34

The difference between Jesus and you and I was not one of the mere manner of his birth, it was not because of some special dispensation, it was not just because of some mere potentiality that was in him but not in others--**the difference was in the awareness of that potential.** The difference was in the consciousness of that I AM-age.

ORTHODOXY RESPONDS TO GNOSTICISM

Orthodoxy has preached that man is a poor, miserable sinner.

The Christian traditionalists developed this dogma that Jesus was God and that man was a miserable sinner. This was to make the total separation between Jesus and man. He was not human. He was God. Totally God.

ORTHODOXY MISUSES PSALM 51.

(Let's read this and discuss in class) pg 36.

THE TRUE TEACHING OF JESUS

The point is..Christian tradition has supported this concept of the miserable sinner nature of man and the divinity of Jesus, which totally loses the full thrust of that which Jesus had to give to every one of us as a teaching. The heart of Jesus’ teaching was not the depravity of man but the divinity of man. The heart of Jesus’ teaching was the I AM-ness of every individual. **Jesus discovered this principle of divine sense.** He discovered his own divine image, and he fulfilled the personal requirement of living it out into expression fully and completely, demonstrated in his own experience. **His ministry was devoted to the “repeatability of the Christ.”...”Nothing shall be impossible unto you,” he said. Nothing! “There are the things that I do, you can do, too, and greater things shall you do if you have faith” (John 14:12)** This certainly doesn’t set him apart..but it says that there’s a divine possibility with every person. Jesus discovered it. This was the main role. He demonstrated it. He spent his life teaching other people how to experience it and showing the greater things that could happen if you do fulfill it and give it expression.

Jesus said, “Be ye perfect as your father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Why would he say this if he did not believe that every person contained within them the same unborn

possibility of perfection as he did, and that as Jesus himself had given birth to it , so could anyone give birth to it by commitment, by growth, by dedication, by work, and by practice?

WE MUST BEGIN BY KNOWING OUR CHRIST POTENTIAL

Truth study...is motivated by a deep feeling of spiritual inferiority....We want to be more. We want to be better. We want to overcome the stigma of the presumed sinfulness of man...often..the quest for Truth becomes a program of seeking, reaching, and straining to get and become. "I want to become spiritual."...**There's no way that you can ever become "spiritual"...because being spiritual is your nature.** It's not something that you can study and acquire as a result of techniques, or..classroom experiences. There's no way that through reading this or any other book you can become more spiritual. **You are spiritual. That's the fundamental Truth. This is your nature. This is the I AM. You are created in God's image and likeness. Deep at the heart of you there is a spiritual tone that is absolutely, unequivocally the reality of you.** You can never be anything less. Without the knowledge and experience of the Christ Potential within..(we're lost?) becoming spiritual is a matter of waking up, becoming aware of I AM.

Something more than the (complexity of the brain and the enormous number of brain cells) is needed to understand life and to understand ourselves.

Read 39 last half of page

There is a particular genius within you. It doesn't mean that every person can do what other people do or become what other people become, because we're not in a popularity contest..we're trying ..to be better than our former self..

So it is with all of our relationships in life, so important that the great key is to know that each of us has more within us, and growth is experiencing more of it, releasing the powers that are normally suppressed.

There is within every person the potential for what American philosopher Henry David Thoreau calls, "The license of a higher order of being" That potential is within you. The license was always there...the potential is there, all built in, according to our uniqueness. Ours is the privilege of understanding it and releasing it and giving birth to it.

You have the capacity to be more, to reach higher, to achieve the very depths and heights of your potential and God Self. It's always present, and ours is the privilege to work at it today.