

What Is the Christ Consciousness?

The term “Christ Consciousness” is used by adherents of the New Thought and New Age movements to describe the Universal Consciousness that created, and forms the basis for, everything that exists. Other words used to describe this “entity” would be God, Creator, Universal Mind, and Source. The idea is that true reality consists only of consciousness, which is entirely non-physical in nature. Consciousness, according to this religious philosophy, is all that technically exists. Consciousness brings into being all forms of matter and energy which comprise the building blocks of the known universe, and theoretically all unknown universes, as well. According to this belief, the universe is nothing more than a temporary and artificial construct of a great mind that in a manner of speaking imagines everything into existence. The universe remains in existence and holds itself together by the combined thoughts of the Universal Consciousness which is comprised of a nearly infinite number of smaller, individual conscious entities which make up the whole. Human beings would be numbered among those individual entities. A good analogy would be to envision our experience of the physical universe as a dream, from which we wake up upon death. The experience of the dream is real, but the dream itself is spiritual or non-physical in nature, and we are spiritual, non-physical beings, experiencing the illusion of having physical bodies here on earth.

Interestingly, this concept has been around for centuries and is believed and taught by Buddhists, Taoists, Hindus and mystics from all other world religions, including Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

Over the past hundred years or so, this concept of reality has found strong support from science. We know, based on Einstein’s famous formula $E=MC^2$, that matter may be converted into pure energy. Quantum physics has convincingly demonstrated that all matter is comprised of particles which blink into and out of existence as they emanate from, and return to, waves of potential energy. What seems physical to us is not actually physical at all. Experiments have shown that our conscious observations can actually cause waves of energy to collapse into particles. The most famous of these is Thomas Young’s double-slit experiment. When we stop observing these energy waves, they continue on their merry way without becoming particles. It appears that the fundamental building blocks of all matter are comprised solely of immaterial waves of energy that do indeed respond to our thoughts and observations. It has been theorized by some very prominent physicists that on a cosmic scale everything in the known universe is comprised only of potential energy, and particles which blink into and out of existence on a continual basis, and that some immensely large conscious entity, or group of entities, must be the creative force behind it all. Even psychologists got into the act, and Carl Jung coined the term “universal consciousness.”

So why refer to this huge field of consciousness as “Christ Consciousness?” Here’s the reason. The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ is the agent through whom God created, sustains and literally holds together the world as we know it. Read Colossians 1:16: *“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”* This bears a striking similarity to the concept of the universal creative consciousness believed in by adherents of Eastern religion, mystics from all religions, and even many modern theoretical physicists.

The term “Christ Consciousness” was used to make this connection. But the question remains: Are the historical Jesus and the Universal Consciousness that created and sustains the universe one and the same? Or, was Jesus one of many incarnations of that entity, including each of us? Assuming we are all divine by nature and individual manifestations of a single, larger Godhead, in what ways is the Jesus of history different from each of us? Is Jesus different in kind or only in degree? Most orthodox Christians would believe the former, while most progressive Christians and liberals would believe the latter.

Is it possible that both views might be correct and at the same time consistent with the Biblical description of Christ as Lord of the Universe? If we were to define God as our “collective higher selves” of which we are all individual manifestations, then would it not also be true that our “higher selves” would include the “higher selves” of all others, including Jesus? I would say that Jesus is different from us in that He is “actually” one with the Father, but we are only “potentially” one the Father. Jesus is the creator and sustainer of the universe and he knows it. When He incarnated, He temporarily lost the memory of this, and in that sense He divested Himself of His “Godhood,” but only from the perspective of His human conscious awareness. In the end, He rose from the grave and was exalted once again to His prior status, at the very top.

I believe it is possible to “elevate our consciousness” and increasingly acquire and experience the attributes of Christ. The Bible refers to this as having the “*mind of Christ*” within us. As we strengthen our connection with Christ, we also increase our connection with other human beings. After our death, this process continues. I would envision our soul’s journey through the ages as a process of assimilation whereby we create new thoughts and experiences, and also increasingly share the thoughts of Christ, and of others, and add them to the memory bank of our own conscious awareness. In other words, we expand our own consciousness by creating new experiences and by assimilating the thoughts, memories and experiences of others. (This might be what reincarnation is all about.) We achieve this by sharing our thoughts with others in the heavenly realms, and we do this on earth by empathizing with people on Earth who need our love and help and by sharing our thoughts and lives with them. In heaven, we can read other people’s thoughts telepathically, thereby adding their actual thoughts to our own memory bank. As we do this, we become increasingly aware of our “oneness” with them. As we share their thoughts, those thoughts become our thoughts, as well. We are like individual memory cells in the mind of God, with access to the memories of others through the various synapses. The higher we elevate our consciousness, the more of the mind of God we experience.

Jesus, or should I say the Consciousness of Christ, is different from us in the sense that the exalted Christ currently experiences all the thoughts of God’s mind simultaneously. He can do this because He is that mind. We, on the other hand, are only a small part of that mind. The more we progress in establishing connections with other individuals, the more of Jesus’ essence and being we experience.

This raises a question that has been asked and speculated on by mystics of all religions. Is it actually possible for us to elevate our consciousness to a point where we achieve complete unity with God and actually become God in all respects? This would be similar to the concept of Nirvana in Eastern religion. If it were possible for us to achieve this, how long might it take? I don’t think it is possible for anyone to achieve this because as we share the thoughts of others

and assimilate them into our own memory bank, new thoughts and experiences are continually being created, not only in our Cosmos, but probably in countless other universes as well. We can never become fully God because God is continually growing and expanding. Even if we had an infinite amount of time to work with, we still could not achieve it, because infinity itself is continually expanding.

God doesn't just instantly add all of His thoughts to ours. There are no short cuts. God doesn't instantly "save" us and create in us all the thoughts and experiences of Christ. God can only impart these truths to us by a process of gradual acquisition, through actual human activities and experiences. The most important lessons of life, especially the ability to love sacrificially, cannot be learned second hand. They cannot be dumped into our brains all at once and still be considered authentic.

We are all making progress towards becoming like Christ, or God, but this process is never smooth and without setbacks and it is of infinite duration.

I would like to conclude by sharing with you the words of the Apostle Paul:

Philippians 2:5-11 King James Version (KJV)

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.