

THAT WE MAY BE ONE DVD 3

The Self and Evolving Consciousness

God is not just with us, not just beside us, not just under us, not just over us, but *within* us and at the deepest level. What is the self? The only self we know is the false self that developed in infancy under the influence of the three emotional programs for happiness and especially under the influence of a separate-self sense

Every substantial change in consciousness provides a new perspective that requires time to integrate it into our present mind, body, emotions, and soul...At each new level of growth, all our relationships change especially our relationship to God. The movement towards unity consciousness is experiencing the Divine as our ultimate Self.

Nobody knows quite what the self is. Neuroscience is just as interested as spiritual seekers are. One theory is that the self, as we know it, is fluid and changes with each new level of consciousness, while maintaining its capacity for integrating this new information about itself and its relationships.

If you accept the view that the self can keep on changing and growing, then it becomes the True Self in the image and likeness of God. Finally there is the experience that there is only one Self. If there is consciousness in God, it is shared with every creature according to its capacity.

God is present in everyone, relating to them where they are, but nudging them to move beyond to the unbelievable sharing in the divine beatitude... that might be referred to as sacrifice, which is one way of explaining the meaning of the universe.

If we are experiencing God as more intimate and more available, we move to higher levels of consciousness. There is the self we have now, but if we are attached to that, it will be hard to grow...We are growing in God's Self and in God-consciousness. The ultimate consciousness is the total Oneness in which God is all in all.

All words can only point in the direction of the Ultimate Reality and the highest experience in this life cannot do justice to "Isness" itself.

The fact of our human weakness will always remain as Paul describes so eloquently in Romans: "I do what I do not want to do and do not do what I want to do." We cannot ever judge anyone because we do not know what their real motive is.

One aspect of God that is very useful to remember is that he is not one thing. He is not a thing at all. All our ideas with their contradictions and opposites belong to the limitations of rational consciousness.

God is infinitely diverse and infinitely One at the same time. The God of creation is totally available and the un-manifest God is totally transcendent. If we do not complete the spiritual life, death will take care of the rest.

*The Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.
And the one who searches hearts knows what is
the intention of the Spirit,
because it intercedes for the holy ones
according to God's will.*

Romans 8: 26-27

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Divine love ... mothers us, encourages us, challenges us
and consoles us. ... Divine love is personal and intimate.
It gives itself to us in complete freedom.
It is what makes us whole, or complete, what heals us
from the scars or wounds of the human condition.

The Divine calls us all into being out of itself.
We are meant for it: that is the point of the spiritual journey.
The journey puts us on the road to realizing and actualizing
who we really are in our ultimate being.

Wayne Teasdale, *The Mystic Heart*

"May God heal all divisions -- those within my own mind, heart,
soul and body, and those between all people and groups -- that
we may be one Body in Christ, unified in every way and on every
level, and thus manifest the Living Christ by our very lives.
Amen."