

## **Eucharist, the *Free Market Economy* of Godlikeness**

It is fair to say that the life and teaching of Jesus represent a quantum break of human consciousness from a past contained and conditioned by instinct-driven culture. Jesus of Nazareth ushered in a leap of faith that put humanity on a trajectory of reason/ faith-driven culture and egalitarian sensitivity, of everyone for everyone else. The life and legacy of Jesus is a quantum leap beyond the mind of animal instinct, of self-advantage as advanced by dominion culture. Dominion Theology and imperial culture dominated the life and times of Jesus

Jesus meant to change human society from imperialism, class division and the dominion of privilege and power over others; he addressed liberation and the common birthright of free expression, and obligation. His intentions for and teaching of liberation threatened status-quo dominion, and provoked a religious/ political conspiracy to destroy him and his legacy. In subsequent history, the theology and politics of imperialism infiltrated and dominated Christianity in Mid Eastern, Mediterranean, European countries and colonized peoples until now; not what Jesus taught and exemplified.

Now it is nature joining Jesus in pushing humankind to move beyond history and come to consciousness beyond dominion and exploitation. Nature is telling us: "either stop the insanity of waste, exploitation and pollution, or perish."

It's one thing to say right things but quite another to develop right habits, habits that build community by altruistic giving of oneself in the work of enabling others and communal relationships. Identified with colonial overreach, churches identify with the corporate persona of engaging in market consumerism, a culture of exploitation, death.

The joined voice of faith and reason speaks the same voice as nature. Vatican II was also a quantum break from traditional culture for it meant to lead Catholicism to oneness with the mind of Jesus and nature in rejecting the culture of despotism that persisted from the time of Constantine until Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council.

Global governments are now waking up to the plight of nature. Real collapses of natural ecologies are hitting home. In the least, religions must rise to the challenge, especially Christianity, and awaken to the "theology of evolution" and teach the good news of "free market faith" that is for all to share but which yet eludes humankind. We need personally to connect in mind/ body with divinity/ humanity. St. John Damascene's definition of God, "a sea of infinite substance," enlightens how we belong to God and nature at the same time.

<http://www.gather.com/viewArticle.action?grpld=3659174697239231&articleId=281474978021743>

Before entering his public life, Jesus famously retreated to the desert to clarify his own mind as how to live his adult life. In his retreat Jesus determined to reject owning and profiting from the resources of nature; he rejected the fame and security of Temple association; he rejected being part of the political establishment. He chose to identify himself with the poor, the sick and the marginalized.

The messianic Christ is the "Cosmic Christ" whose altruism infects faith and reason. Who is the Cosmic Christ today? The Cosmic Christ is the living community of believers who are of the same mind and commitment lived and taught by Jesus, the Christ. What

is the mind and commitment of Jesus? To be Eucharist to one another; to put one's own life on the line for purposes of communal wellbeing and the uplift of other. Being Eucharist to one another means foremost to take on the mind and will of Jesus and to give oneself to others without expectation of return.

How are we Eucharist to each other? We are Eucharist to each other when we give ourselves to build community and help others in need. When we invest and reinvest ourselves by being family, by developing skills that empower us to do meaningful things for others, such as, doctoring, teaching, nursing, constructing, pastoring, etc. Direct ways of self-giving include also such things as donating blood, offering a ready hand wherever needed, working at food banks, contributing to food banks, volunteering, etc. Special needs exist every where; being Eucharist means seeking out specific needs in one's community and putting oneself to the work of resolving them.

Today and every day is a day of judgment. Personal failure to challenge right judgment in every matter is a cumulative burden on oneself and nature. It's time for Church and people to be one with Jesus in the direction of the quantum leap Jesus made for all to emulate. To put it politically: "Ask not what your Country can do for you ask what you can do for your Country."