

## COMMON RULE: (2) JESUS AND US

Paragraph 2 (line 1): “The oneness of all creation is shown in the unity of God and Christ.”

Mother Theresa of Calcutta was said to describe the reason she helped the poor and the sick, “I see Christ in every face that I meet.” This story speaks of the oneness of creation, as taught by God through his prophets and the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this oneness is not simply a “Christian” based teaching. Wisdom teachings of all faiths share this common need to instill interconnectedness like a web that risks crumbling if any one strand falls apart from the rest.

*John 10:30* “I and the Father are one.”

*John 14:10* “Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his work.

*John 14:20* “On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

*John 17:10* “All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them... Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one.”

*John 17:22* “The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Alleluia! Alleluia! What a gift we have received. But what does it mean to be in our Lord Jesus Christ? And what is all this talk of being one?

In the beginning, and I mean in the book of Genesis beginning (1:27), we are told that God created humankind in *his* image. Have you ever looked into a mirror? You move and the image moves. You share the same eyes, the same height, the same smile, and the same tears. You are looking at your own reflection of course, and so we too are a reflection of the Father. Maybe not on the outside. Mother Theresa did not literally see Jesus, who is one with God and is God, in each face she saw. She saw people of all race and color and size, but their true self, that spark of life, breathed into us by Christ

through Spirit, was and is the perfect reflection of our Creator Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is who we each are at the core.

What happens if you scoop up a gallon of ocean water? Do you have the ocean in that gallon jug or just a gallon of water? It is now unique and separate. But it is also in essence a part of the whole. When you pour it back, there is no separation, just one big ocean. So, we are with God. Separate and yet a part of the whole. A perfect reflection of the essence of that trinity we call God in One.

Every person we see, is also a part of this whole. Another reflection of God as we are a reflection of God. We truly are one people, one ocean separated into many drops of water.

Christ came into this world to teach and prepare us to return to the Father. He reminded us that as He and God were one, so were we meant to be one with the Father. Then, he sent us out to teach and honor that oneness in every human being, as he had done during His own time on Earth.

When we choose to hate and judge others as different or inferior, we turn our back on our own interconnectedness to the whole. We deny the true self and choose a life in the false self instead. We start wars and riots, we refuse others food and care, and we allow suffering of all types. When we choose this path, we deny our own reflection and in so doing we deny God.

How will you choose to live today? Are you ready to celebrate your life as a reflection of your Creator? Are you willing to honor that reflection in your brothers and sisters? Can you put down your need to be better than in order to share with others what Christ has shared with you? Are you willing to return to that ocean that is God, or will you remain forever lost in that false self that believes they are separate beings better off alone than in union as one?

John-Richard Pagan  
Postulant, CG