

The Chi-Rho

A Typical Example of the Difference Between Exoteric and Esoteric Understanding

*The chi-rho is one of the oldest and most cherished symbols for Christ. Why? What does it mean?
Well - just as the Course advises us - it all depends on how you look at it:*

The **exoteric** meaning of the chi-rho is that it is from the first two letters of the word, *Christos*, in Greek:

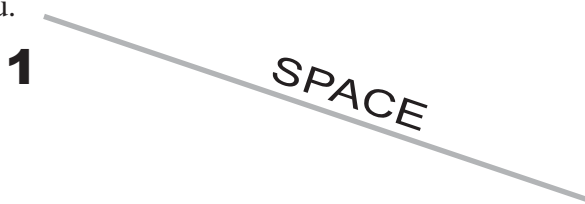
Χριστος

Pretty simple and straight forward, don't you think?



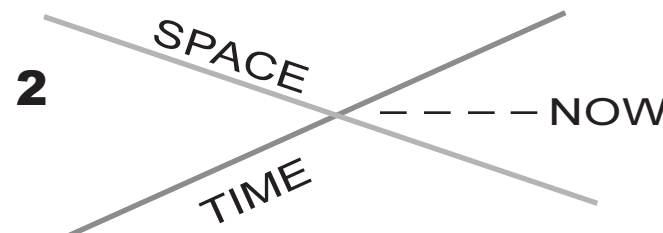
The **esoteric** meaning of the chi-rho may surprise you. Begin with one (1) of the lines of the chi:

Imagine that this line represents our linear experience of space. (The shortest distance between two points.)

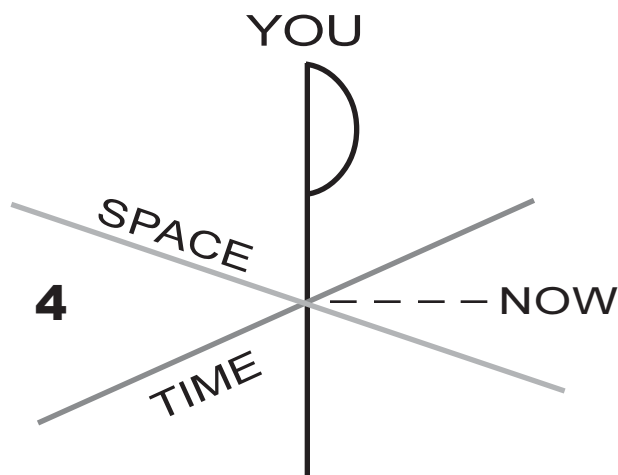
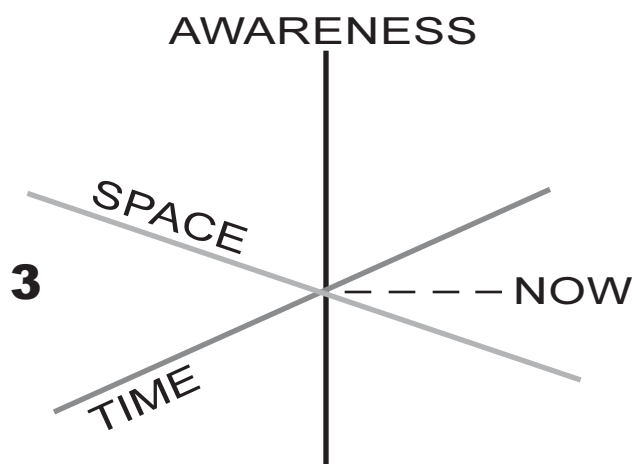


Now add the second line (2) of the chi:

Imagine that this line represent our linear experience of time. The **intersection** of time and space which we currently occupy is **NOW**, the only time that is real - **the real point of power**.



Now add the upright line (3) of the rho. Imagine that this is the point we call awareness - any one's awareness (maybe a bird's) - so make the symbol personal by adding the crescent part to the top of the rho as a stylized image of your "head" (4).



*In the esoteric understanding of the Chi-Rho, it doesn't represent Jesus of Nazareth at all. It actually becomes a visual reminder that when you are present in the NOW, the eternal, internal power of CHRIST becomes manifest in YOU.
(Better, huh?)*