

GOD'S IMAGE IN CHRIST

HEBREWS 1:3, EPHESIANS 4:23-24; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:49

NOVEMBER 15, 2020



MAIN POINT

Jesus shows us what the image of God looks like. As we follow Him, He gives us the opportunity to become more like Him.

INTRODUCTION

Is there a place where you feel particularly close to God (i.e. the mountains, the beach, the woods, etc.)? What about that place makes you feel close to God?

If you had to draw a picture to represent God, what would you draw? Why?

UNDERSTANDING

> READ HEBREWS 1:3 (ESV).

How is Jesus described in this verse? How would you explain this verse to an unbeliever or a new Christian?

What does the crucifixion reveal about God? What does Jesus' sitting down at the right hand of God reveal about God?

Why is it impossible to understand God's image apart from the life and work of Jesus?

Why do you think it is important and/or helpful to read such descriptions of Christ and ponder on them?

How does the magnitude of these descriptors compare to the way in which Christ is typically represented today? How does this compare to the way you typically think of Christ?

> READ EPHESIANS 4:23-24.

The Christmas carol "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" includes this lyric: "Adam's likeness now efface, stamp thine image in its place." How does Ephesians 4:23-24 describe that "stamping" process?

What does it mean that your new self in Christ was “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”?

What is your role in that process of recovering God’s image as a believer in Christ?

> READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:49.

Do you tend to view reflecting God’s image as a possibility or an impossibility in your life on earth? Explain.

What promise do we find in 1 Corinthians 15:49?

In what ways have you experienced the process of God restoring His image in you? In what ways do you expect Him to continue to do that?

APPLICATION

Which statement better represents your attitude about being God’s image bearer: “I will be like Jesus one day,” or “I am right now becoming like Jesus”? Why does this matter?

What is one way you want to better reflect God’s image? What does your relationship with Jesus have to do with that process?

How can we help each other better reflect God’s image to the world around us?

PRAY

Thank God for Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection that perfectly reveals His image and also redeems and restores His image in us. Invite Him to continue that transformative process in your life as you seek to accurately show the world who He is.

MEMORIZE

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” —Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)