

There is no one else that images God like Jesus Christ does. There is no guru that you can follow like you can follow Jesus. There is no business leader, self-improvement tycoon that you can trust like you can trust Jesus. There is no human mentor that you can trust like Jesus. There is no person that you should devote yourself to as wholly as you should Jesus. He alone matches all the criteria necessary to be Saviour and Lord.

What Christianity calls us to is radical. It's radical faith and allegiance to one man, putting all our eggs in the one basket of Jesus Christ. So it's good to regularly refresh our understanding of who this man is if we are going to be that serious about following Him.

This is just one element of who Jesus is: "He is the image of the invisible God"

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-22.

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.

You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven

gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

This notion of the “image of God” strikes a rich vein throughout the Bible of a lot of theological truths.

There are four aspects of Jesus being the image of God that we’ll be considering: *manifestation, representation, resemblance and communication.*

1. Manifestation

One part of Jesus being the image of the invisible God is *manifestation* – meaning that Jesus is making the invisible God visible among us. Jesus is the physical representation of the one, true, invisible God. And humans were also meant to (in some way) be little, image-bearers of God.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

– Genesis 1:26

2. Representation

Mankind was designed to represent God here on earth, but failed. Yet Jesus represented God, and He did it 3.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ...– 1 John 1:1

John is talking about Jesus. He was here, He was physical – people could touch Him. He was here as a physical representation of the invisible God.

3. Resemblance

Closely associated with the idea of Jesus being the representation of God is His *resemblance*. Jesus being the image of God means that He is the perfect resemblance of Him.

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

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus Christ. Jesus perfectly images God in His life and ministry. He lived His life and ministry sinlessly relating to God, people and nature. The first man, Adam, failed the Satanic test but Jesus passed it with flying colours.

4. Communication

Jesus is God's clearest communication to the world. This is what John was getting at in his Gospel.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1,14

Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is the truth. He is impartial, shows no favouritism. He fights for the outcasts and the marginalized everywhere He goes. He is the answer to racism, prejudice and injustice. Jesus is the life and the only way to God.

A modern way of understanding this communication aspect of Jesus being the image of God is emojis. If you use emojis, you might find that they can convey what it would take many words to convey. That little image conveys a good deal of communication. In Jesus Christ is communicated all of God's attributes. **(Hand out emojis)**

Without Christ, there would be no way to know God. Without Him, we would be left to build our lives around the puny, temporary pleasures of this world until it passes away. But with

Christ, we can know God Himself. He is the image of the invisible God.

Imaging God is not necessarily something you have to actively think about, but rather it should be like breathing – something you simply do.

Brushing your teeth, washing your hair are not outside the realms of honouring God.

Paul says in 1 Cor 10:35 – whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God.

In Jesus the image of God is restored to us. We are able to reflect God into the world again, by being in Christ. As Adam was the first of the old humanity and lead it into the way of sin and death, so Jesus is the firstborn of a new creation, that through “God’s abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through ...Jesus Christ”

What was distorted and stolen by sin has been restored in Jesus.

Jesus is the Image of God, because He is God, in human form, came down to earth to show us the way back to God, to restore us to God by sacrificing His life and taking our sins upon Himself.

We are told this throughout God's Word – from Genesis through to Revelation. 101 verses confirm the truth of this.

So my question to you today is - have you experienced new life in Jesus? If not, what is holding you back? Fear, sin, Satan's lies?

Perhaps today you've come to realise that you were made for a high purpose, and that the sin in your life has held you back from being who God created you to be.

Today is the day to come "into Christ". In Christ you will become a new person. You won't inherit Adam's mess, you'll inherit Jesus' life instead.

Today is the day to receive "God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness [so that you can] reign in life through... Jesus Christ."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTLGBfv4xaM>

Lord I offer my life