

## ***Christ, The Image Of God*** (lesson #5)

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**Colossians 1:15; 2 Cor 4:3-4**

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**Col 1:15-16** – *He is the image of the invisible God*, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven & that are on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him & for Him.

**2 Cor 4:3-5** – But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of *Christ, who is the image of God*, should shine on them.

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1. Our texts tell us that God is **invisible** & that Christ is the “image” or manifestation of God.

“**Image**” – *eikon* (i-kone’); a likeness, i.e. (literally) statue, profile, or (figuratively) representation, resemblance:

“**Invisible**” – *a* [negative particle]; NOT – *horatos* (hor-at-os’); gazed at, i.e. (by implication) capable of being seen: visible

Jesus is a reflection of the invisible God.

**AND** Jesus portrays man as man was intended to be.

We can be like Him, & thus be like God (**2 Cor 3:18; Rom 8:29**)

Finally, in the end, we shall be like Him when we see Him as He is (**1 Jn 3:2**).

## 2. What did Jesus say in John 14:9 that relates to our texts?

**John 14:9** – Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, & yet you have not **known** Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Jesus made the Father **known** to the disciples.

### a. In what ways did Jesus prove this (find your answers in 14:10-31)?

**10-11** – His “works”

**12-14** – He would return to the Father & give the disciples the power to perform the same “works”

**15-31** – He die & be resurrected to ascend back to His Father, then He would send the Holy Spirit

## 3. The Hebrew writer says that the Son is the **brightness** of God’s glory & the **express** image of His **person** (Heb 1:3).

“**Brightness**” – effulgence or outshining (a ray from an original light body).

(Alford) – “the Son of God is, *in this his essential majesty, the expression & the sole expression of the divine light*; not, as in his incarnation, its reflection.”

“**God’s glory**” – is the expression of all His divine attributes.

“**Express image**” – *charakter* (khar-ak-tare’); engraving, the figure stamped, i.e. an exact copy or representation.

(Weiss) – *The Son is the outshining of the divine glory, exhibiting in himself the glory & majesty of the divine Being*. “God lets his glory issue from himself, so that there arises thereby a light-being like himself”.

4. How can Christ be the “image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15; see Matt 1:23; John 8:58)?

“**Image**” – *eikon* (i-kone’); a likeness, i.e. (literally) statue, profile, or (figuratively) representation, resemblance:

He was Immanuel & He is Eternal (Jn 1:18; 1 Tim 3:16; 6:16)

5. What does Paul say regarding the nature of man (1 Cor 11:7)?

“**Image**” – God formed the spirit within man

“**Glory**” – Man is the crowning glory of God’s creation

a. How is this true? (Gen 1:26-27; Zech 12:1; Ecc 12:7)

b. In what way is this different from the nature of Christ? (Cf. Heb 7:3)

6. The Greek word for “Image” (eikon) was used to refer to a portrait. In order to see Christ as the “image of...God” let us draw a verbal portrait of God.

1) **Love** (1 Jn 3:1; 4:8-10)

8) **Supplier** (2 Cor 9:10; Phil 4:19)

2) **Goodness** (Rom 2:4; 11:22)

9) **Just** (Rom 3:26; Matt 12:18)

3) **Grace** (Titus 2:11; 3:7)

10) **Jealous** (Exo 20:5; 34:14; Deut 4:24; Josh 24:19; Ezek 39:25; Nah 1:2)

4) **Mercy** (Eph 2:4)

11) **Perfect** (Deut 32:4; 1 Pet 5:10)

5) **Lovingkindness** (Jer 9:24)

12) **Unchangeable** (Heb 1:2; 6:18)

6) **Longsuffering** (Exo 34:6; Rom 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9, 15) 13) **Truthful** (Jn 1:14, 17)

7) **Impartial** (1 Pet 1:17; Jas 3:17)

## 7. How do these verses relate to our study?

**2 Cor 3:18** – But *we all*, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, *are being transformed into the same image* from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (**1 Pet 1:2-22**).

**2 Cor 4:3-4** – But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to *those who are perishing*, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Those who accept the gospel will be transformed into the image of the Lord, but those who reject the gospel are prevented from this transformation.

## 8. Explain the phrase “firstborn over all creation (Col 1:15)?

This expression has been used to deny the deity of Jesus, claiming He was the first created being (Jehovah’s Witnesses).

In the OT the “firstborn” of any family had special privileges, but had to bear special responsibilities.

Jesus rightfully inherited all authority over created things because He fulfilled the responsibilities given Him by the Father.

“First-born” doesn’t always mean “first son.” David wasn’t the first son, & yet God called David firstborn (**Psa 89:27**).

Jesus is “the first-born of all creation” in that He has absolute preeminence over the creation.

**Verses 16-20** describe or explain His “preeminence”.