

WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE?

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“A kindergarten teacher told everyone to draw a picture of what was important to them. In the back of the room, Johnny began to labor over his drawing. Everybody else finished and handed in their picture, but he didn’t. He was still drawing. The teacher graciously walked back and put her arm around Johnny’s shoulder and said, ‘Johnny, what are you drawing?’ He didn’t look up; he just kept on working feverishly at his picture. He said, ‘God.’ ‘But Johnny,’ she said gently, ‘no one knows what God looks like.’ He answered, ‘They will when I’m through.’” (The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart, Charles R. Swindoll, pg. 231).

This is, of course, a cute story about a little boy that is so innocent and honest we automatically love him. However, there is a deeper message that should be taken from this story. Christians should have the same mind set as Johnny. When we are through with our work, as followers of God, will people be able to look at it and know what He looks like?

We understand that God is a spirit being, and no human can look upon Him and live. This is why John wrote, “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*” (Jn. 1:18). However, we can see and understand the nature of God. Remember when Philip asked Jesus, “Shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us” (Jn. 14:8)? In reply to this, the Lord stated, “**Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father**” (Jn. 14:9)?

Philip as well as the other apostles should have seen the Father in the Son; meaning they should have, by His actions, understood the nature of the Father. The Hebrews writer penned, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:1-3). He said the Son was the “express” image of the Father. The word “express” is translated from the Greek word, *χαρακτήρ* (pronounced *charaktēr*), and is where we get our English word “character.” In this context it means an instrument used for engraving or carving (Thayer). “This word expresses the idea: and the sense here is, that if God be represented under the idea of a substance, or being, then Christ is the exact resemblance of that - as an image is of the stamp or die. The resemblance between a stamp and the figure which is impressed is exact; and so is the resemblance between the Redeemer and God” (Barnes).

Does this mean that Christ looked physically like the Father? The answer is, “NO.” He looked like the Father in that His nature was the same as the Father’s. He acted in the way the Father would have acted if He were the One to walk the earth. Jesus had the same purpose, ideals, plans, and love that the Father had and the disciples should have seen that.

As we live our lives, we too should depict God in our lives. Do our actions say that we are followers of God or followers of the world? If we are followers of the world, are we not followers of Satan? Christ prayed, “**Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one**”

in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (Jn. 17:20-23). By being one with God, He can be seen in us by the world and they can understand what He looks like as our faithful actions demonstrate His nature.

It should be our desire, when we finish our “drawing” in this life that people will know exactly what God looks like. They should also understand how important it is for each of us to finish our work before our time on earth is over. By showing the Lord to others through our actions, we have the opportunity to impact the lives of others and hopefully, help bring them to the knowledge of Jesus.