

I. Introduction: Jesus Christ is the true image of God, the One that reveals what humanity is supposed to be and what all Christians will one day be like in holy perfection.

A. You are an image-bearer of God! *An image-bearer is a specially created being designed to represent God's presence and to spread His glory throughout the Earth.*

II. The Hope of God's Image-Bearers (Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor 15:45-49).

A. God's True Representative (**Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor 15:45-49**).

1. Adam is the federal head of humanity whose sin brought about death to the human race, but Jesus is the head of a new humanity whose righteousness brings life to all mankind.

B. God's True Ruler (**Matt 28:18-20; Rev 5:1-10**).

1. Adam forfeited his status as God's vice-ruler by rejecting God's authority, but Jesus reclaimed it as the true Ruler of creation through the shedding of His blood.

C. God's True Creator (**John 1:1-5, 14-18; 3:1-10**).

1. Adam was told to fill the Earth with God's image-bearing sons of God, but he failed. Jesus has filled the Earth with His followers, who are born again as His children.

D. God's True Son (**John 5:14-24**).

1. Adam was called a son of God as His image-bearer. Jesus is the true Son of God who demonstrates what true obedience to God looks like as His perfect Image.

III. Conclusion: Jesus Christ came into the world as the last Adam to restore the image of God to mankind, instituting a new humanity that would reflect God's Glory as true image-bearers.

Study Questions: The Hope of God's Image-Bearers

1. Who are you? Who does God say that you are? How has Satan tried to steal your identity? What does it mean to be God's image-bearer? How does your identity reveal your value, dignity, and worth?
2. Have human beings lost the image of God? (**Gen 5:1-3; 9:6; 1 Cor 11:7; James 3:9**) How did sin impact God's image-bearers? (**Rom 5:12-21**) How has Jesus come to restore God's true image?
3. How is Jesus the true Image of God? (**Col 1:15; Heb 1:3; 2 Cor 4:4**) How are Christians being conformed to His image? (**Rom 8:28-29; 1 Cor 15:49**) How does this make us fully human?
4. How is Jesus God's perfect image-bearing Ruler? (**Matt 28:18-20; Rev 5:1-10**) How did Jesus demonstrate His rule over sin? (**John 8:31-37**) Nature? (**Matt 8:27**) Death? (**1 Cor 15:45-49**)
5. How is Jesus God's image-bearing Creator? (**John 1:1-5, 14-18; 3:1-10**) How does Jesus make us born again? (**Eph 2:1-5; 1 Peter 1:3-4; 23**) How is this related to evangelism? (**Matt 28:19-20**)
6. How did Jesus conquer death for humanity? (**John 19:41; 20:11-18**) How did Jesus' obedience bring life? (**Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor 15:22; 45-49**) How are we being restored to be His creators?
7. How is Jesus God's image-bearing Son? (**John 5:14-24**) How has God adopted us into His family? (**Rom 8:14-17; Gal 4:4-7**) If we are His children, then how should we act toward others?
8. How will God restore Eden in the end? (**Rev 22:1-5**) How do these things mirror what was lost in Eden? (**Gen 2-3**) How will fellowship with God be restored? (**Gen 3:8; Rev 22:3-5**)

Prayer

1. Pray and ask Jesus to save you and make you a child of God if you have never believed in Him.
2. Pray that God will give you the ability to share the Gospel with family, friends, and neighbors.