

This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ~Jesus
John 17:3

Image of God

Since we are made in God's image, this means we have the capacity to reflect God's character. We have corrupted that image through sin. Jesus was, and still is, a human being (resurrected from the dead) who was made in the image of God and fully reflected God's character in his own life, and therefore could say that if they have seen him, they have seen the Father, not that he was the Father as some would claim.

Jesus is said to be the "image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), "and the express image of his person" (Heb. 1:3). This does not mean Jesus is God. The "image" of something is not the very thing or person itself. It is a representation separate from the original. We have the image of Presidents on our currency and coins. If one is to argue that an image of something means the same thing as the original, then being conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29) would mean that we can actually be Jesus the Messiah.