

### *Is it ok to make an image of Jesus?*

It is forbidden to make an image of Jesus (Ex 20:4-5). Jesus himself said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24)."

J. Vernon McGee discussed this idolatry in some of his writings.

He stated<sup>1</sup>:

...The Lord Jesus became a man, but the Bible does not give us any physical description of Him...

...I do not believe in pictures of Jesus. I know that many lovely people feel that a picture of Jesus helps them to worship Him. Let me tell you what was said by an old Scottish commentator:

"Men never paint a picture of Jesus until they have lost the presence of Him in their hearts." We need Him in our hearts today, not in color on a canvas...<sup>2</sup>

Isaiah contrasted God to idols (Is 40:18) and Paul reminded the Athenians that God is not like silver, gold, stone or other materials shaped by man (Ac 17:29).

Jesus took on human flesh and said to Philip "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father (Jn 14:9)."

McGee continued<sup>3</sup>:

Have you noticed? I cannot find in any one of the Gospels that there was born to Mary a nine-pound baby boy with blue eyes and light hair or brown eyes and dark hair. I can't find it. Pictures of Christ are not accurate...

... "Oh," somebody says, "But, you know, I have a little altar and I've put a picture of Jesus up there, and I like to go and bow down before it." You're nothing in the world but an idolater. "Oh, yeah, but, I need that to help me." If you know Him as Saviour, you do not need that to help you...

...Isn't it interesting that nothing that was physical that was connected with Him has survived? God saw to that!...

The apostle Paul said that we know him no longer after the flesh (2 Co 5:16). The Lord is not glorified when he is portrayed as continually hanging on a cross.

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<sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude: only ye heard a voice [Deut. 4:12].

<sup>2</sup> McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: The Law (Deuteronomy)* (electronic ed., Vol. 9, p. 35). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> McGee, J. Vernon. *What Does God Look Like? Sunday Sermons*. Thru the Bible. Web. 28 Jun 21: <https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/thru-the-bible-sunday-sermon/listen/what-does-god-look-like-829396.html> Featured Resources From Thru the Bible - Sunday Sermon

McGee continued<sup>4</sup>:

...When a man puts something, as the object of his worship, in the place of God, he passes on the same practice to his offspring. What a terrible heritage he is thus handing down to the child!...

...Whenever a man stops short of that face-to-face worship of the Eternal God, he is working ruin to his own character, because he is breaking the commandment of God.

Any likeness made of him is wrong.

McGee continued<sup>5</sup>:

...[T]he pictures we have of Jesus are not of Him but of some Italian in the Middle Ages who posed for the picture. Today God is speaking in His Word...

Get to know God through his word (Jas 4:8).

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<sup>4</sup> *Love, Liberation and the Law: The Ten Commandments by Dr J Vernon McGee (1995–12-01)*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> McGee, J. Vernon. *How Did God Speak to Moses?* *OnePlace.Com*, 28 Jun 21:[www.oneplace.com/ministries/thru-the-bible-with-j-vernon-mcgee/read/articles/q-a-with-mcgee-12122.html](http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/thru-the-bible-with-j-vernon-mcgee/read/articles/q-a-with-mcgee-12122.html)