



Mirror Christianity: Christ in You
Image of Christ Series
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Genesis 1:26 (Also see Jeremiah 31:31-34; Colossians 3:9, 10; Ephesians 4:21-24)
Then God said, “Let Us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . (NIV) or . . . God spoke: “Let Us make human beings in Our image, make them reflecting our nature” (Message Version)

2 Corinthians 2:15, 16; 3:1-18

Aroma of Life:

For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you?

Letter of Life:

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴Such **confidence** we have through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are **competent** in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He has made us competent as ministers of a **new covenant**—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

Unveiled Faces:

We are not like Moses (Exodus 34:29-35), who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶**But** whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**.

Mirror Images:

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate/reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Essence of Message: The start of a new year is the perfect opportunity to renew our appreciation of the promised “new covenant” which provides for the permanent, inside-out dynamic of the Lord Jesus Christ to actually live in and through us – He created us to so depend on Him as to reflect or mirror His image in and through our authentic and redeemed selves (Galatians 2:20). He willingly walks in our shoes, thinks through our minds and loves through our personalities. This relieves us of the impossible task of trying to glorifying him, as poor imitators, semi-keepers of the law, and ever-fading, easily distracted people – saves us from our exhausting efforts to mimic or look like Jesus by our own efforts. (see *Himself* – AB Simpson)

New Years

Lots of traditions: I like this one: “Start 2013 off with an empty jar and fill it with notes about good things that happen. On next new year’s eve, empty it and see what awesome stuff happened that year!” The **Tournament of Roses Parade** tradition.

Mannequin Experience



Various Images of the Christian:

- **Aroma** (attractive to keenest of senses; life lived as a continuous prayer): Am I a fragrance that attracts or repels?
- **Letter** (meant to convey a message): Am I living, “good news letter,” a 140 character text, a quick tweet or small screen version of the real thing?
- **Veiled Face** (an unsustainable alternative): Do I have ebb, flow, good day/bad days, and fading issues?
- **Unveiled Face** (new covenant face with permanent presence of Christ in me, my hope of glory) – True (vs False) Self, the authentic me
- **Painted Image** (an alternative): Persona, hypocrisy, duplicity, impersonation, sophistication but hardly sea worthy.
- **Derived Image** (like the **mirror** that can’t give back what it can’t see): Do I reflect the person of Jesus Christ who stands before me, my Lord and Saviour? I must avoid becoming dusty (unused), dirty (sinful), distorted (unshaped by Word but shaped by world)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy . . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." – Philippians 1:6

Tisdale Alliance Church