

## **“What Does God Look Like?”**

### **Colossians 1:15, 19**

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Christmas Eve Devotion

Roger Douglas tells the story of a four-year-old girl named Suzi. Soon after her brother was born, Suzi began to pester her parents to leave her alone with her new brother. The parents were uncomfortable with her request because they read that most four-year-olds have jealous feelings over a new baby. They were concerned that Suzi might injure her brother. Finally one evening, they decided to let Suzi have time alone with her brother. Elated, Suzi went into the baby's room and shut the door. The parents became anxious after a few moments and peeked inside the room. They watched as Suzi went up to her baby brother's crib and put her face close to his. Then she quietly said, “Baby, tell me what God looks like. I'm starting to forget.”

This is the reason we need Christmas. In a world filled with many distractions, we, too, forget what God looks like. We have no problem identifying evil. We know what hatred, jealousy, deceit, prejudice and violence look like. We are all too familiar with selfishness, greed, intolerance, indifference, insecurity, fear, guilt, anxiety, confusion, death and grief. What does God look like, though?

The baby born in Bethlehem whose birth we celebrate on this holiest of nights showed us through his life and ministry. Paul was so confident of this that he boldly wrote. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in him” Colossians 1:15, 19.

If you want to know what God looks like, look at Jesus. If you want to know what God thinks, listen to Jesus. If you want to know what God would have you do, follow Jesus.

When you follow him, you will also provide an answer to the question, “What does God look like?” For you see, God will look like you or better yet, you will look like Him. You will become the image of the invisible God as His Spirit dwells in you.

When my daughter was young, she often heard someone say, “You look just like your daddy!” After hearing that one time too many, Amy looked at Jackie and asked with disgust, “Mom, do I really look like a boy?”

When I came across this picture some years ago, I could hardly believe it. It is a picture of my grandfather, taken when he was a young man. He was about eighteen years old, which means this picture was taken in 1908. What is so alarming is that it could be mistaken for me when I was eighteen. We looked that much alike at that age.

This weekend, family members young and old will surround you. You may be fortunate enough to have a baby in your home. If you are, I would be willing to say that you will hold him or her and look for family features. When I hold Ellie, my grand baby next week, I know I will.

God will be with you as you gather tonight and tomorrow. He will also be looking for family features, although not necessarily physical features like dimples and smiles. He will be looking for things like honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, reliability, strength, courage, kindness, compassion, generosity, faith, hope and love. When He finds them, it will bring a big smile to His face because through you the Invisible will become visible, and those around you that have forgotten what He looks like will remember and smile, too.