

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

Scripture Reading: Read Hebrews 1

“You have your father’s eyes.” “You have your mother’s nose.” “You have your grandmother’s smile.” Statements like these are made by parents the world over when they look at their children. The family resemblance can provide a sense of pride, joy and continuity from generation to generation.

According to the author of Hebrews, when we look at Jesus we can see the family resemblance too. Jesus looks just like his Father. “*The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...*”

These two phrases are powerful word pictures that describe the family resemblance. The first, “*the radiance of God’s glory,*” refers to the radiance which bursts out of a brilliant light. When I was a child, my father and I would camp along Lake Ontario and often get up before the sun rose to head down to the beach and fish. While there, we would see the sun begin to peek up above the horizon and then wait until the whole sky was filled with the radiance of the sun’s rays that flowed from the sun. It was an awe-inspiring sight. In a similar fashion, the Son of God has appeared and the whole universe is filled with the radiance of God’s glory found in Christ. As the apostle John notes (John 1:14), “*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

Secondly, not only is the Son the radiance of God’s glory, he is also “*the exact representation of his being...*” This phrase is linked to the world of engraving. Just as a stamp on a wax seal bears the same image as the engraving on the seal, so also does Jesus bear the stamp of God’s nature. When we look at Jesus, we see everything that God is. Paul confirms this when he writes in Colossians, “*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form*” (Colossians 2:9) and “*God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him*” (Colossians 1:19). The family resemblance is unmistakable.

In the Old Testament, God spoke in many ways to and through the prophets (Hebrews 1:1). It is through this one, the Son of God, whom God now speaks (Hebrews 1:2). He is the one who perfectly reflects the Father. According to the apostle John, no one has ever seen God the Father, but Jesus has made him known (John 1:18). He has revealed him to the world. This thought is repeated by Jesus himself to his disciple Philip in the upper room, “*He that has seen me has seen the Father,*” (John 14:9). The family resemblance is clear.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Take a penny and place it under a piece of paper. Gently rub the paper with your fingernail until you get an impression of the penny on the paper. Compare the impression with the original and reread Hebrews 1:3. Pray for revelation from God’s Spirit to understand the deep truths of Christ’s character and nature found in Hebrews 1:1-4. Then spend some time worshipping Jesus.

Take-a-way: *You can see the family resemblance in Jesus. He looks just like His Father.*