

THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

“For whom **He foreknew** (proginosko / a.a.ind) [Omniscience at Eternal Life conference], **He also predestined** (proorizo/ a.a.ind/ sovereignty) to become (not in text) **conformed** (summorphos / a.pl.m) [same form] **to the image** (tes eikon) **of His Son**, that **He might be** (eimi/ p.a.infin) [divine decree of plan of God] the firstborn among many brethren.”

We will study three aspects of restoring the image of Christ to every church age believer.

1. The first Adam lost for the human race what the second Adam (Jesus Christ) restored.

Jesus Christ restored “life” and “relationship” for the human race (Jude 19; 1 Cor.2:9-16; 3:1) [psuchikos / unsaved; pneumatikos / saved; and sarkikos / carnal].

How can you lose what is lost? [apollumi is loss of well-being] Zemioo is forfeit or loss of something formerly valued. (Mark 8:36-37)

Paul refers to this as “being made alive” in Christ (1 Cor.15:22; Rom.8:11; 1 Cor.1:18) and “having a life giving Spirit” In Christ (1 Cor.15:45). This is a reference to **spiritual life** that was lost when the first Adam sinned (Rom.5:12, 18-21; 2 Pet.2:12).

2. The first Adam did not lose tselem demuth (image according to likeness of Godhead) of Gen.1:26-27.

Moses declared that fallen man still had tselem demuth: “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.” (Gen.9:6)

Paul mentioned the same thing in 1 Cor.11:7: “since he is the image and glory of God.”

James also mentioned it in James 3:9: “With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.” (James 3:7; Gen.1:20-31)

Tselem demuth is what gives **unredeemed man the worth** for God to send His only begotten Son to died for sinful mankind (John 3:16; 1 Tim.1:15; 2 Cor.5:17, 21) (Matt.6:26; 10:29; Mark 8:36-37).

3. What the last Adam (Jesus Christ) restored to the redeemed human race was the conforming to the image of Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 1:14-18; 14:9-14) (2 Cor.4:4; Col.1:15; Heb.1:3; 1 John 4:9).

Tselem demuth is restored to the image of the Son of God in church age believers (Rom.8:29; Eph.2:4-5; 2 Cor.2:15-16).

This conforming to the image of Jesus Christ takes place in all three phases of the plan of God.

- **Phase I (salvation)** conforming to the image of Christ comes by regeneration (John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5-7; 2 Pet.1:4; Gal.4:4-7).
- **Phase II (CWL)** conforming to the image of Christ comes by spiritual maturity by cycling the word of God by faith under the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit (1 Pet.2:2; Heb.5:13-14; Eph.4:10-13, 24; 2 Cor.3:18; Rom.12:2).
- **Phase III (Believer in eternity)** conforming to the image of Christ comes by glorification in resurrection body (Phil.3:21; 1 Cor.15:45, 49-51; 1 John 3:2).