

## Acts 17:29-30

*Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,*

You may read today's verse and think, "This won't apply to me, I don't have any of those gold or silver statues or idols in my home." Yet how many have false images of God and Jesus in their homes? Today's verse even says that they are, "*something shaped by art and man's devising*".

When I read the word "*art*", the first thing I think of is a picture, drawing or painting. So you may not have statues in your home, but do you have a picture of some guy that someone said that they painted or drew is a picture of Jesus, so you hang it in your home saying this is Jesus and even worship it? Why, because someone said this is Jesus; therefore, you treat it like it is Jesus?

Was the painting of Jesus done 2,000 years ago, and did Jesus pose for the painting of Himself? Or has this person been alive over 2,000 and they know what Jesus looks like? It has gotten so bad that people have drawn, with their artistic abilities, pretty much a stick figure or Jesus and other will buy and even worship this stick figure picture.

"Well, I know it's not Jesus, and it's just a symbol of Jesus, so I am not worshipping the painting or drawing just the symbol of Jesus" you may be thinking. And I understand that, but also if you read your bible, didn't God say as part of the Ten Commandments:

† **Exodus 20:4-6** *You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

Also if you call it a "symbol" of Jesus, you are making a false image, and by calling it a symbol does not make it right, that's the same thing that happened to the children of Israel in the wilderness. They couldn't see God, so they made a symbol of God in the form of a calf, and worshipped it.

† **Exodus 32:4-6** *And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*

Did God tell them that this was alright? Not at all!

† **Exodus 32:7-10** *And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' " And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."*

So, once again, today's verse say that "**by art and man's devising**" man makes images of God and Jesus and worship these false images, yet in verse 30 it says, "**Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent**".

We as children of God should no longer be ignorant of these false images of God or Jesus, (**something shaped by art and man's devising**) because if you are reading your bible, you know these things and would want to be obedient to God and what He says about putting up false images of Himself and His Son Jesus in your homes, and even more so, in our hearts.

I always say jokingly, but also seriously at the same time, that "*One of the first things we will say to Jesus when we see Him is, 'wow, You look nothing like Your picture'*" I know that sounds funny, because we have no idea what Jesus looks like, other then He was Jewish. There is no description of Him in the bible other than:

† **Isaiah 53:2** *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.*

Did you see that last sentence or as the NLT and MSG puts it:

† **"There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him."** (NLT2)

† **"There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look."** (MSG)

Jesus looked like an ordinary man in His appearance. But you may think, if that is true, why then were so many people drawn to Him? Simply because how He loved and treated others. No where in the bible does it say that others came to Jesus because of how He looked, but rather they came to Jesus for what He could do for them and His teachings and most importantly because of His love and compassion for the people..

So, as the bible says, "**Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent**" Which means to remove the idols from our homes, these pictures and painting of some man that people call Jesus, or God, because it is not Him and you are setting up false idols in your home, and the Lord is not please when anyone does that.

- † **Exodus 20:5-6** *you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*
- † **Exodus 34:13-14** *But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God)*