

Drawing A Portrait (Sanctification) (Discipleship) (Made Like Christ)

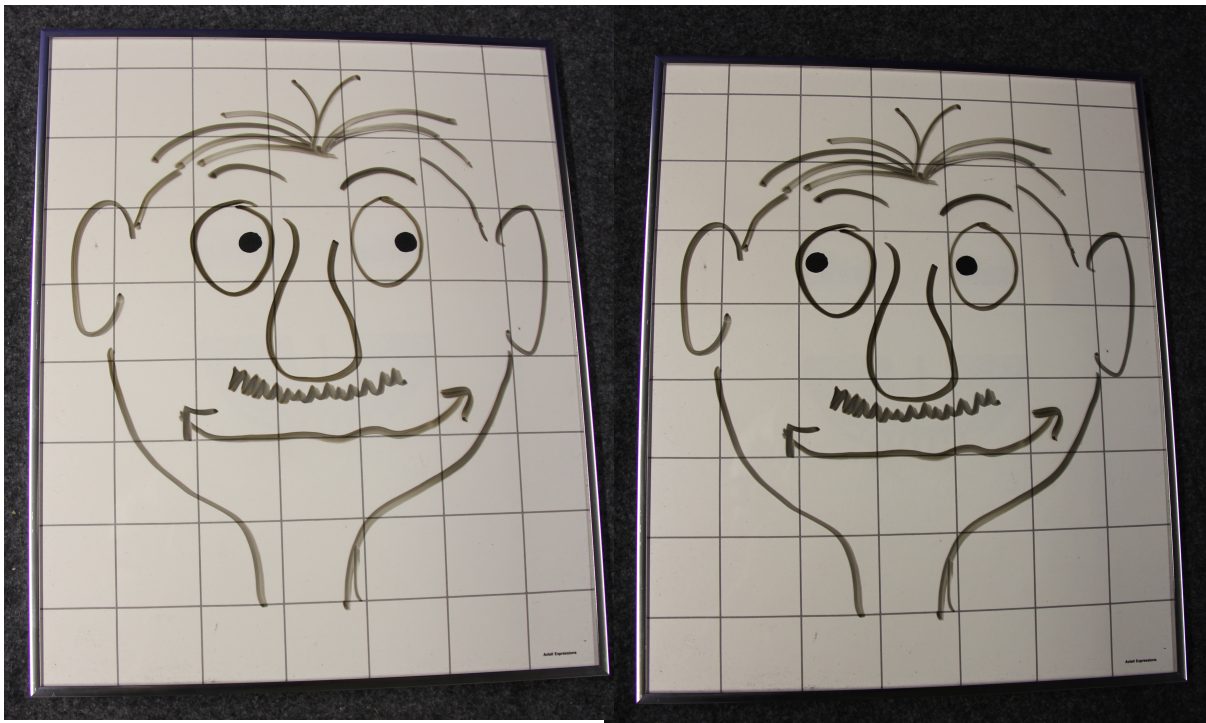
For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. Romans 8:29a

The Basic Bible Truth

My salvation can be described as consisting of three tenses. I was saved. At a specific moment in the past, I realized that I had a sin issue that I could not solve myself and I invited God to be a ever present, active part of my life. I will be saved. There is coming a day when Jesus will return and all will be made right again, and I will spend eternity in Heaven with Him. I am being saved. Sanctification. For the Christian, it is our calling to be constantly making an effort to become more like Christ in our actions and thoughts.

The Object

Magic Drawing Board
(I Bought Mine From Axtell Puppet)
(A Little Pricey, But Worth It)



This is a simple apparatus to operate. The face is drawn live in front of an audience. The eyeballs move and the mouth can open. Kids love seeing a cartoon drawing come to life.

The Lesson

One of the advantages of having me as a teacher is that I make an effort to give you a well-rounded education. Today is a “twofer”. Two lessons for the price of one, satisfaction guaranteed, or your price of admission will be gladly refunded. Today, not only will you get a Bible lesson, but, it is my intention to teach each of you the finer points of how to draw a portrait. You never know when someone in your future might come up to you and say, “Hey, can you draw a portrait of me?” And lucky for you, you will be able to remember back to this very lesson and say, “Sure, I’d be glad to do it.”

First, you must have a subject. For purposes of demonstration, I prefer a live subject, not a photograph. A volunteer, perhaps. May I draw your portrait? You don’t need to come up here. You can remain seated. Does everyone see this young man here in the front row? I will now demonstrate how to draw this young man’s portrait. You will notice as I go along, that I will constantly be referring back to him as I draw. It’s the best way I know to catch the subtleties of his countenance. It’s often the little details that make an average portrait a masterpiece.

The most difficult part of any portrait is the eyes. If you get the eyes right, everything else falls into place, but the eyes have to be perfect. I take my time doing them. They are the “soul” of the portrait. There, that should do it. Then we go to the nose. Almost always two nostrils. Never forget that. Then we go to the mouth. It should be stern, with maybe a slight upturn of the lips to give just a hint of a smile. Our subject today does have hair, so let’s add that next, going all the way down to the ears-and they need to be the same size preferably. Let’s extend the line down to form a strong lower jaw. Girls like a manly look. Then the neck and shoulders and we are almost finished.

Now let’s add a few details we missed. An earring on the right ear would be a daring touch, but don’t tell his dad though. I wonder what he might look like with a mustache. And we place a few freckles here and there. Oh, and don’t forget that strand of hair right there that is always sticking up. We are done. Isn’t it magnificent!

You notice how I kept referring to my subject during my drawing process. I needed reference. I needed to remind myself of small details that I would have otherwise missed. Our Christian walk is much the same. We are to become as much like Jesus as we can. We are to be conformed to His likeness. We are to look like Him. Not physically, but in our character and actions, we should be like Christ. And we have an amazing reference tool at our fingertips. It is called the Bible. God has included everything we need to know about Him in the pages of Scripture, and we would do well to remind ourselves often of the minute details we sometimes forget about or overlook.

You see, ladies and gentlemen, it’s the eyes that make this portrait a masterpiece. When you study a portrait, you gauge the eyes first. I remember a few years ago, I took my family to Washington, D.C., where we toured all of the museums we could squeeze into our short vacation. I loved the Smithsonian. It’s actually a group of museums, not just one. I recall, we made a special effort to go through the National Portrait Gallery. I am not a huge fan of art museums, but this gallery was amazing. That morning, about midway through the museum tour, we entered a large room filled with 15 or 20 portraits. They lined the outside walls and there were a few displayed in the center of the room. I saw an incredible portrait on the far wall, and as I walked across the room, the eyes seemed to follow me as I went. (At this point, I am gesturing with my hands, pointing in the direction that we entered the room and gradually “following” my traverse to the other side of the room with my hand pointing the way. This is done slowly. The eyes of the cartoon character on the drawing board follow my hand very slowly. Most people will not realize what has happened, they are so engrossed in the story.) The mark of an excellent portrait is that the eyes just seem to follow. A true artist can achieve this illusion. And as I walked back across the room viewing the paintings in the central display, those eyes seemed to follow me again. (Again, I am gesturing with my hands to point my direction of travel, and again the eyes of the cartoon drawing are slowly following my

hands. I keep talking about walking back and forth in the room until someone in the audience notices what the cartoon character is doing. Whenever I look back at the cartoon character, his eyes go back to original position just before I glance at the board. And of course, I deny that a cartoon drawing could actually be alive and moving. It is my artistry and my ability to capture the eyes so well that it just looks like they are moving. I play a cat and mouse game with the cartoon drawing, never actually catching it in motion of course. It can also laugh at me as I totally deny that anything out of the ordinary is going on. It's all just an illusion due to my amazing portrait ability.)

But wouldn't it be neat if a portrait really could come to life? Aren't we living portraits of Jesus? Yes we are, and how cool would it be if we acted and behaved just like Him? It would be amazing.

(The cartoon character is looking around the whole time, laughing and such. At some point, I tire of the whole thing and erase the character from existence, proving that it was indeed simply a drawing.)

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