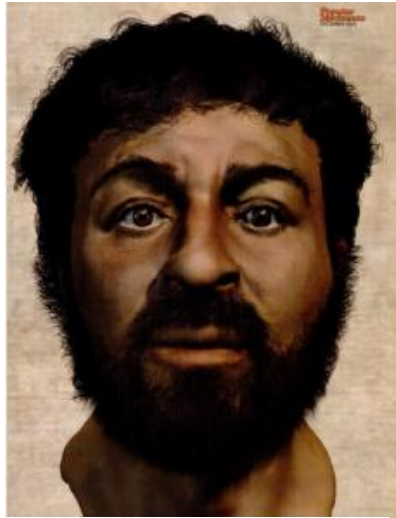


What Does Jesus Look Like?

Well, apparently we now know what Jesus looks like—and it's not Brad Pitt.

A fairly new field of science has emerged called forensic anthropology. Although we have no physical remains or DNA of Jesus to sample—and we won't since Jesus is alive and currently sitting at the right hand of the Father—scientists use other evidence to give us an idea of what Jesus looked like.



Based on forensic anthropology, scientists have a reasonable idea of what Jesus may have looked like.

British scientists teamed up with Israeli archaeologists. They started with first-century skulls found in the area around Jerusalem. Then they created a computer simulation of the full skull that even allowed for the addition of soft tissue and skin. (If you've ever had a MRI, this is a similar imaging process.)

Wait. How can they derive all that from a skull? They pulled from other nerdy areas of science: genetics, osteology (the study of bones), dentistry, and what we know about the nutrition and climate of the first century.

What about His eyes, skin, and hair color? The scientists studied drawings of people found in archaeological digs. And based on other skeletal remains, the average man was 5'1" tall and about 110 pounds. As a carpenter, Jesus would've been muscular.

Could all this be true of the Son of God? Yes, because Jesus was a typical Jew. He didn't stand out in the crowd—and He certainly didn't have a halo the size of a '57 Buick hubcap that shouted, "Hey! I'm the Son of God!"

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him" ([Isa. 53:2](#)).

How ordinary was Jesus' appearance? On the night He was arrested, Judas had to walk up and kiss Him so that the soldiers wouldn't grab the wrong man. Jesus blended in with the others. So there you have it—but I could've told you what Jesus looks like without computers, skulls, and modeling clay.

If you want to know what Jesus looks like, look in the mirror.



If you are a follower of Christ, you are the face of Jesus to those around you.

- **We are made in the image of God ([Gen. 1:26-27](#)).** Although we have marred that image through our sin, when we come to Christ, He begins His work in our lives "to be conformed to the image of his Son" ([Rom. 8:29](#)). We are being renewed in the image of God ([Col. 3:10](#)).
- **We are the body of Christ ([1 Cor., 12:27](#)).**
- **We are the ambassadors of Christ ([2 Cor. 5:20](#)).** The president appoints an ambassador to represent the United States and its interests in another country. If the ambassador says something bone-headed, the other country is not made at him; they are made at the United States. To that country, the ambassador is the face of the United States. In the same way, what we say and do reflects on Christ, the One we represent.

When people look at you, what does Jesus look like? Are people repelled by the Jesus they see in you—or are they attracted to Him? Personally, I want to be the spitting image of His love and grace.