

# THEOLOGICAL DEFENSE OF ICONS

✠ By His Incarnation, Christ put an end to the Mosaic law (that forbids use of images to represent God). The Old Covenant is superseded by the New Covenant. Christ is the icon (the image and likeness) of the Invisible Father.

✠ The son is the image of the Father, just as Jesus Himself tells us: “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

✠ Saint Paul also sees in Christ “the image of the Invisible God.” Col 1:15

✠ From the Moment Christ is born of a Mother who can be depicted, He naturally has an image which corresponds to that of His mother. If he could not be represented by art, this would mean that he was not born of a Mother who can be depicted but was born only of the Father and that He was not Incarnate. - Saint Theodore the Studite

✠ The Incarnation justifies the icon of Christ.

✠ Council of Chalcedon spoke of the two distinct natures of Christ: “true God and true man”; but the iconoclasts ignored and rejected this teaching. We must recognize and admit the union of the two distinct na-

tures. In the icon of Christ it is neither just His divinity, nor just His humanity which is represented, but His entire, complete person,. The icon shows us the Person of the eternal Word incarnate -- and not simply His humanity separated from His divinity.

✠ As His image, the icon shares in the mystery of both His humanity and His divinity.

✠ It is not the visible, material element that is venerated, but rather the Person represented, to whom our veneration is given.

✠ Nowhere did Christ order that even the briefest word be written about Him. Nonetheless, His image was sketched in writing by the apostles and preserved for us to the present. So what is represented on the one hand with paper and ink, is likewise represented on the icon with various colors and different materials. - St. Theodore the Studite

✠ If you have understood that the Incorporeal One became man for you, then it is evident that you can portray His human image. Since the Invisible One became visible by assuming a human body, you can make a picture of Him who was seen. - Saint John of Damascus