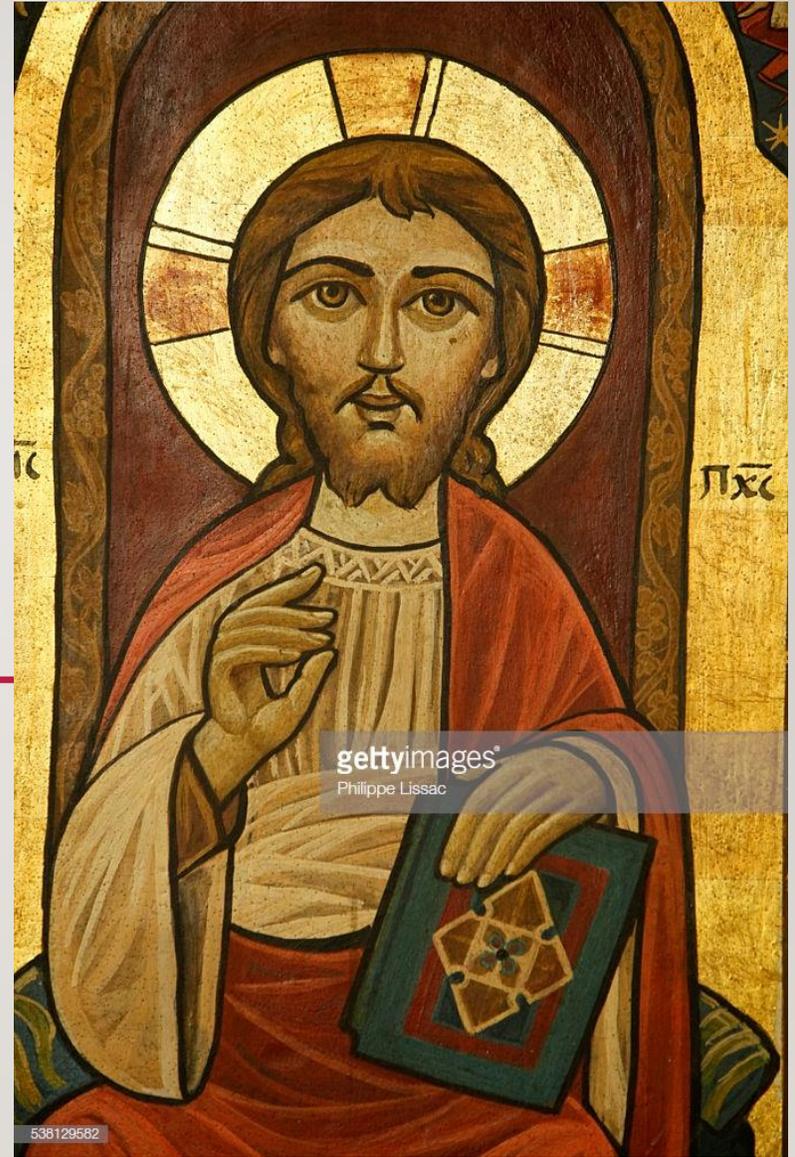


# ICONS

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A SHADOW OF THE HEAVENLY



# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ICON AND PAINTING

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- There is no time in a religious Icon
- Colors in holy icons have a symbolic meaning
- They do not show human emotion
- They don't follow the correct proportions of the human body

# REASONS WHY ICONS WERE DEBATED

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- Muslim Rule – conquered most of Europe until 1453 when they took Constantinople.
- Islam forbids all pictures, while images of Christ, the Virgin Mary and the saints were a central part of Christian worship
- Emperor Leo III (Emperor of the East) banned all images in 726
  - **Argument was that the Old Testament forbids graven images and especially worship of them (2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment)**

# WHAT IS WORSHIP?

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- Veneration
  - Symbol of Submission and Honor
  - Many different forms
    - Worship to God (Lateria- adoration, a reverence directed only to the Holy Trinity)
    - Worship of admiration and desire
    - Thanksgiving
    - Need and Hope
    - Worship of Contrition and Confession

# WHY ICONS DO NOT BREAK THE COMMANDMENT

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- **We worship not the material, but that which is imaged**
  - John explained it like this: "Often, doubtless, when we have not the Lord's passion in mind and see the image of Christ's crucifixion, his saving passion is brought back to remembrance, and we fall down and worship not the material but that which is imaged: just as we do not worship the material of which the Gospels are made, nor the material of the Cross, but that which these typify."
- **The Fathers**
  - Second, John drew support from the writings of the early fathers like Basil the Great, who wrote, "The honor paid to an icon is transferred to its prototype." That is, the actual icon was but a point of departure for the expressed devotion; the recipient was in the unseen world.
    - The Honor is given to what is imaged not the image
- **Faith in the Incarnation**
  - Third, John claimed that, with the birth of the Son of God in the flesh, the depiction of Christ in paint and wood demonstrated faith in the Incarnation. Since the unseen God had become visible, there was no blasphemy in painting visible representations of Jesus or other historical figures. To paint an icon of him was, in fact, a profession of faith, deniable only by a heretic!

