

It is so good to be back home in Smithshire tonight, If you look to the south wall you will a reproduction of the Head of Christ.

The Artist was **Warner Sallman** a [Christian painter](#) from [Chicago](#). Born in 1892 he died in 1968.

The Head of Christ was created in 1941, more than 500 million copies have been sold. It was one the most familiar images in American churches in the 1950's.

My son, Erik came to church here almost every Sunday until he was 12 when we moved to Elmwood.

Erik has assured me that even though there are 500 million copies of this painting, the one on the wall at Smithshire is the one true image of Christ.

Everyone can claim to have the one true faith, the one true way, The middle ages were full of relics. Bones of saints, pieces of the one true cross, the holy grail, etc. These relics made for a lucrative trade from travelling con artists.

If you want to join with Erik in his belief that the one true image of Christ hangs on the south wall of the Smithshire United Methodist Church, well maybe you can go proselytize. Convert followers and pilgrims will start coming to Smithshire to view the one true image of Christ.

Some in the greater body of Christ want to draw very specific rules and narrow beliefs. Clearly defining the one true religion, ritual, or sect. The mission and vision has often been harmed by human nature in professes the one true religion.

As the hymn The Church's One Foundation puts it
Though with a scornful wonder -- men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

So, no matter your claims, beliefs, or theology there is only one true image of Christ

That is the one people see when they look at you. Do other people see Christ in you. When you see your neighbors in need are you generous with talents and gifts, or do you hoard them and keep them close to yourself. The image the world sees, that image God knows, is more important than any doctrine, any profession, or sect.