Christianity and the Arts	
Christianity and the Arts	
RPC Adult Class 2023	
	-
I	
-	
1	
Definition:	
The "arts" =	
- Visual ("Fine") Art (painting, sculpture, etc)	
- Performing Art (plays, film, music) - Literature (books, poems)	
Energia (Soots) poems)	
2	
Discuss:	
Why should Christians learn to appreciate art?	
Our relationship with God     Bible is art	
-	
3	

			_
	Discuss:		
	Why should Christians learn to appreciate art?  • Our relationship with God  • Bible is art		-
	<ul> <li>Lordship of Christ</li> <li>General Revelation</li> <li>Experience scriptural truth, not just know</li> </ul>		
	<del></del>		
4			
			7
	"God's desire for us is not only that we would simply know the		
	truth of the gospel intellectually but that we would		
	also experience the beauty of the gospel intimately. Art has the power to draw our hearts and minds into this intimate experience		
	in more ways than mere words. Songs, music, paintings, books, sculptures, movies, photography and the like, can make this		
	intimate experience a reality. Good art ensures we experience the gospel without minimising our understanding of the gospel" – Adi		
	P		
5			_
			_
	Discuss:		
	• Our relationship with God		
	Bible is art     Lordship of Christ     General Revelation		
	Experience scriptural truth, not just know     Build our imagination		
		40	

Discuss:	
Why should Christians learn to appreciate art?  • Our relationship with God	
Bible is art     Lordship of Christ	
General Revelation     Experience scriptural truth, not just know	
Build our imagination     Deepens our longings for heaven	
Our relationship with others     Builds empathy	
•	
10	
"Literature (or any art) makes us feel more about things, and feel about more things" Thomas De Quincey	
about more things mornus be quincey	
•	
11	-
Discuss:	
Why should Christians learn to appreciate art?  • Our relationship with God	
Bible is art     Lordship of Christ	
General Revelation	
Experience scriptural truth, not just know     Build our imagination     Deepens our longings for heaven	
Our relationship with others     Builds empathy	
Helps us love artists better     Helps us engage culture more wisely	
ncips as engage culture more wisely	
12	1
14	

What is happening in the arts today is prophetic of what will	
happen in our culture tomorrow – Phil Ryken	
13	-
Discuss:	
Why should Christians learn to appreciate art?  • Our relationship with God	
Bible is art     Lordship of Christ     General Revelation	
<ul> <li>Experience scriptural truth, not just know</li> <li>Build our imagination</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Deepens our longings for heaven</li> <li>Our relationship with others</li> <li>Builds empathy</li> </ul>	
Helps us love artists better     Helps us engage culture more wisely	
14	
Discuss:	
Why should Christians learn to appreciate art?	
What are some ways Christians <u>struggle in their engagement with the arts?</u> • Ignore  • Uncritically consume	
Charles Consume	

# Christianity and the Arts

RPC Adult Class 2023



16

- Articulate a theology of creativity, art, beauty, storytelling
   Develop an imagination and appreciation for the formative nature (both positive and negative) of the arts
   Provide a framework for discernment with the arts
- Gain skills in how to get the most out of the arts



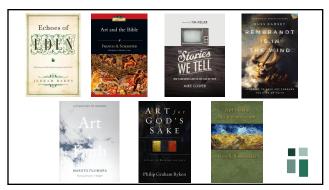
17

Class Schedule				
Feb 26	Part 1: Creativity	Ross		
March 5	Part 1: Beauty	Ross		
March 12	Part 1: Story	Zachary		
March 19	Part 1: Christian & Non-Christian Art	Ross		
March 26	Part 1: How to Judge & Engage the Arts	Zachary		
April 2	Part 2: Echoes of Eden in Plays	Zachary		
April 9 (Easter)	Part 2: Echoes of Eden in Film	Ross		
April 16	Part 3: Echoes of Eden in Painting pt 1	Ross		
April 23	Part 3: Echoes of Eden in Painting pt 2	Zachary		
April 30	Part 4: Echoes of Eden in Literature pt 1	Ross		
May 7	Part 4: Echoes of Eden in Literature pt 2	Zachary		
May 14	Part 5: Echoes of Eden in Music	Ross		



Movie night: April 21

19



20

## Creativity:

Creative God
1. Creation's Beauty

Rev 4:11 - "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."



_			1
	Creativity:		
	Creative God		
	<ol> <li>Creation's Beauty         Psalm 19     </li> </ol>		
	The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.		
	<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.		
	<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.		
	<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.		
	In them he has set a tent for the sun,  5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,	ж.	
	and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.		
22			
			,
	wherever you turn your eyes, there is no portion of the world, however minute, that does not exhibit at least		
	some sparks of beauty; while it is impossible to		
	contemplate the vast and beautiful fabric as it extends around, without being overwhelmed by the immense		
	weight of glory. – John Calvin		
		ш.	
23			
			1
	Loizeaux's 4 aspects of creation's beauty		
	<ol> <li>Perfection</li> <li>Diversity</li> </ol>		
	<ul><li>3. Abundance</li><li>4. Inventiveness</li></ul>		

Creativity:	
Creative God 1. Creation's Beauty	
2. Bible is creative	
Created in the image of God  Called to creativity	
"Fill the earth and subdue ithave dominion" Genesis 1	-
25	
	_
Creativity:	
Creative God	
Creation's Beauty     Bible is creative	
Created in the image of God	
Called to creativity	
"Fill the earth and s <u>ubdue</u> ithave dominion" Genesis 1	
James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.	
"doers" = Greek "poesis"	
26	
How to view artists/art:	
Imitation (of God)	
"an author (or any artist) should never conceive of himself as bringing into	
existence beauty or wisdom that did not exist before, but simply and solely as trying to embody in terms of his own art some reflection of eternal Beauty and	
Wisdom."  - C.S. Lewis	

Christian	understar	nding	of the	arts

### 1. Creative God

2. Human Imitation of God's creativity
"painting with HIS colors; speaking with HIS gift of language; exploring and
expressing HIS sounds and harmonies; working with HIS creation in all its:
glory, diversity, and in-built inventiveness."

Not mere "self-expression"

