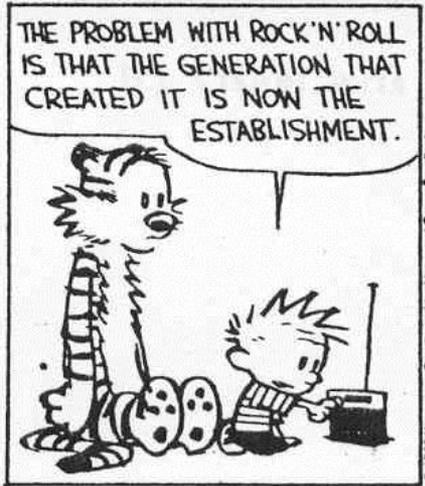


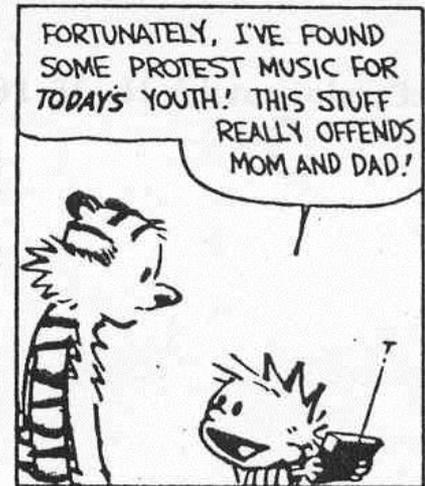
CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE PROBLEM WITH ROCK 'N' ROLL IS THAT THE GENERATION THAT CREATED IT IS NOW THE ESTABLISHMENT.

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ROCK PRETENDS IT'S STILL REBELLIOUS WITH ITS VIDEO POSTURING, BUT WHO BELIEVES IT? THE STARS ARE 45-YEAR-OLD ZILLIONAIRES OR THEY ENDORSE SOFT DRINKS! THE "REVOLUTION" IS A CAPITALIST INDUSTRY! GIVE ME A BREAK!



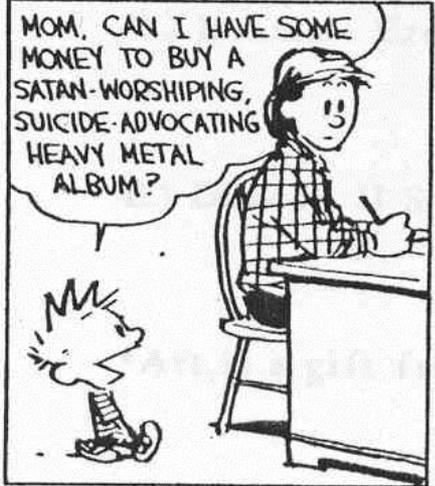
FORTUNATELY, I'VE FOUND SOME PROTEST MUSIC FOR TODAY'S YOUTH! THIS STUFF REALLY OFFENDS MOM AND DAD!



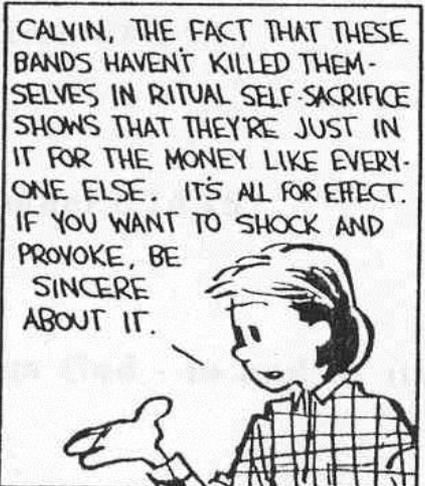
EASY-LISTENING MUZAK?

I PLAY IT REAL QUIET, TOO.

CALVIN AND HOBBS



MOM, CAN I HAVE SOME MONEY TO BUY A SATAN-WORSHIPPING, SUICIDE-ADVOCATING HEAVY METAL ALBUM?



CALVIN, THE FACT THAT THESE BANDS HAVEN'T KILLED THEMSELVES IN RITUAL SELF-SACRIFICE SHOWS THAT THEY'RE JUST IN IT FOR THE MONEY LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. IT'S ALL FOR EFFECT. IF YOU WANT TO SHOCK AND PROVOKE, BE SINCERE ABOUT IT.



MAINSTREAM COMMERCIAL NIHILISM CAN'T BE TRUSTED?!

'FRAID NOT, KIDDO.

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CHILDHOOD IS SO DISILLUSIONING.



1/81

People of Hope in a Culture of Despair



The Need for Biblical Discernment

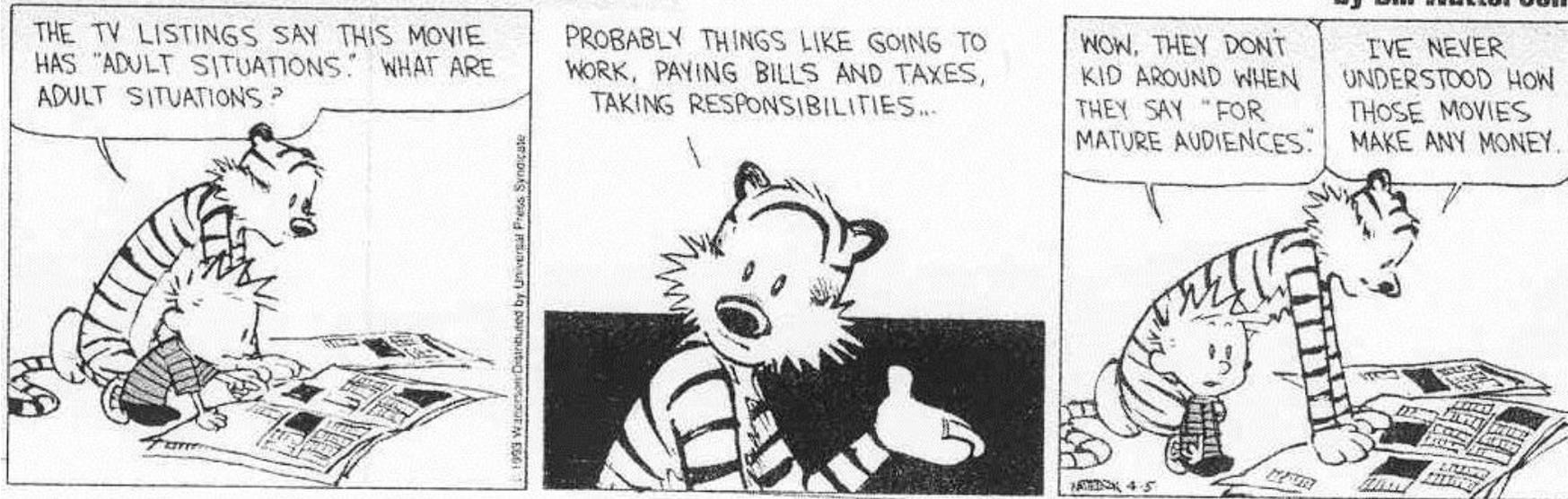
“Test all things;
hold fast what is
good. *Abstain*
from every form
of evil.”

I Thess. 5:21,22



Mature Content?

Calvin & Hobbes



“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

Hebrews 5:14

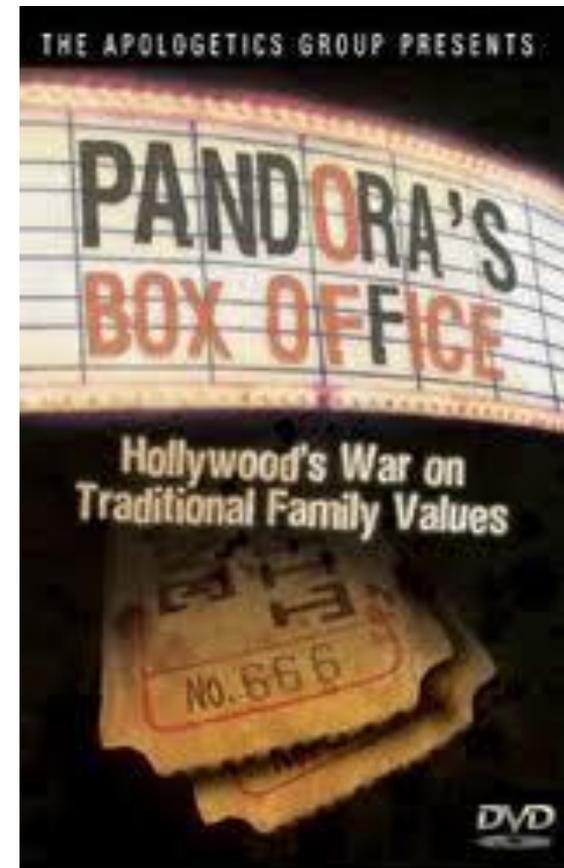
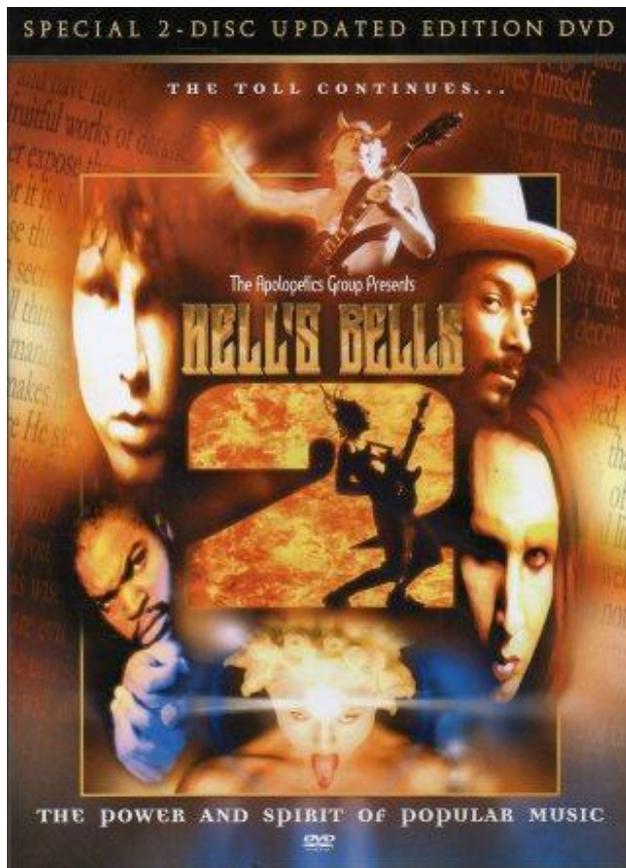
Abstaining from Evil

“...you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the *futility* of their minds. They are *darkened* in their understanding, *alienated* from the life of God because of the *ignorance* that is in them, due to their *hardness of heart.*”

Ephesians 4:17,18



Recognizing Evil



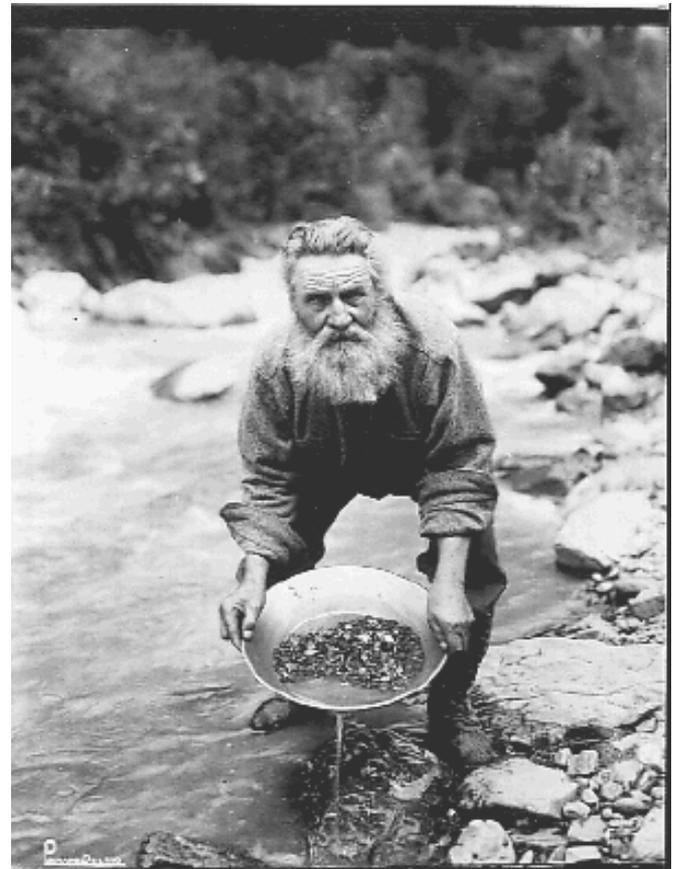
Holding Fast to the Good

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is *from above*, coming down from the Father of lights...”

James 1:17

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, *that it may impart grace to the hearers.*”

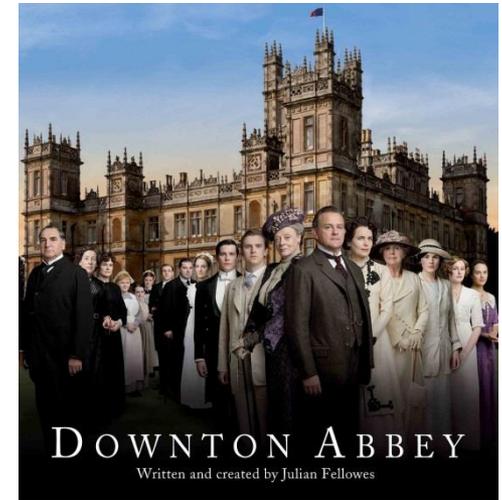
Ephesians 4:29



Pursuing Excellence

“....whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is
commendable, if there is
any excellence, if there
is anything worthy of
praise, think about these
things.”

Philippians 4:8



Paul & Cultural Awareness

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth...From one man He made every nation of men...God did this so the men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him, though He is not far from each one of us. ‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ *As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are His offspring.’*”

Acts 17:24-28



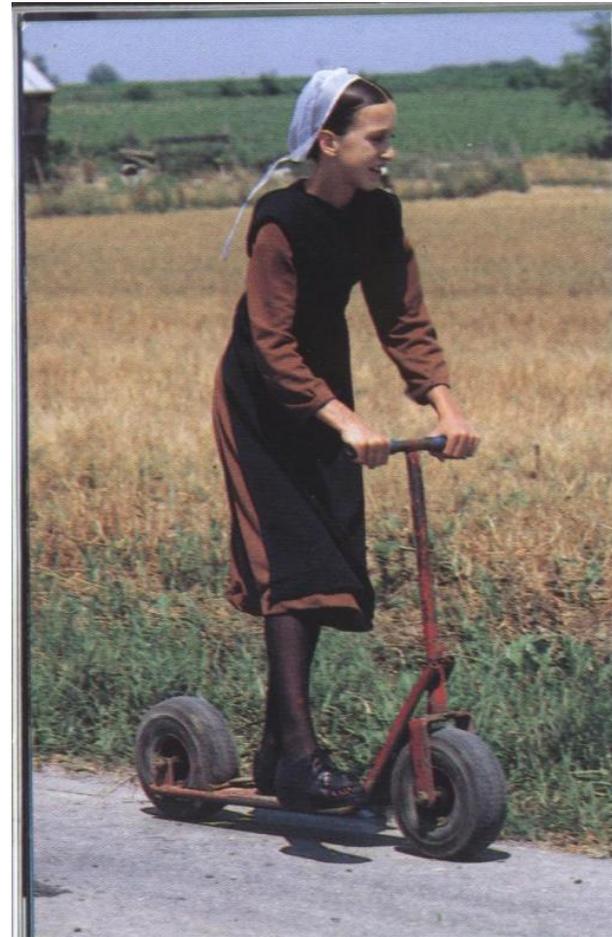
Two Things that Should Make A Believer Stand Out

“...in your hearts *set apart Christ as Lord.*
Always be prepared to give an answer to
everyone who asks you to give the reason for
the hope that you have.”

I Peter 3:15

The Degradation of Arts & Entertainment – 4 Responses

Escape



Conform

“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

James 4:4

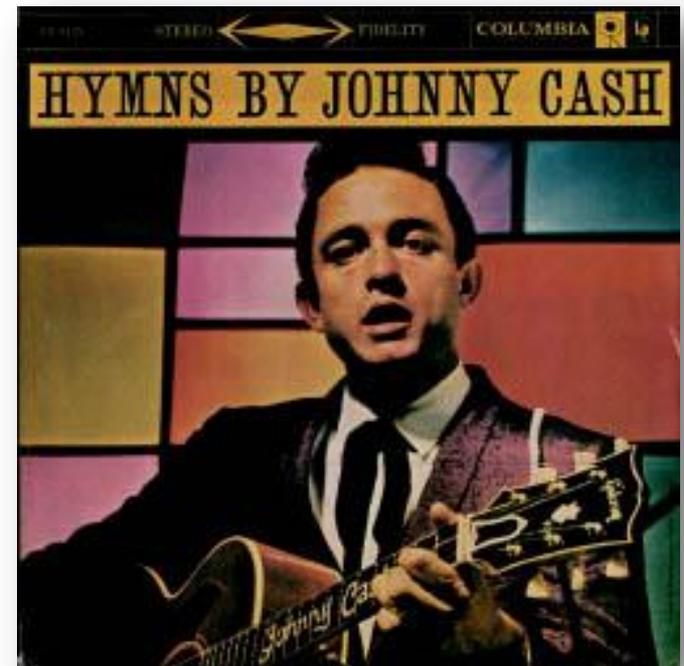
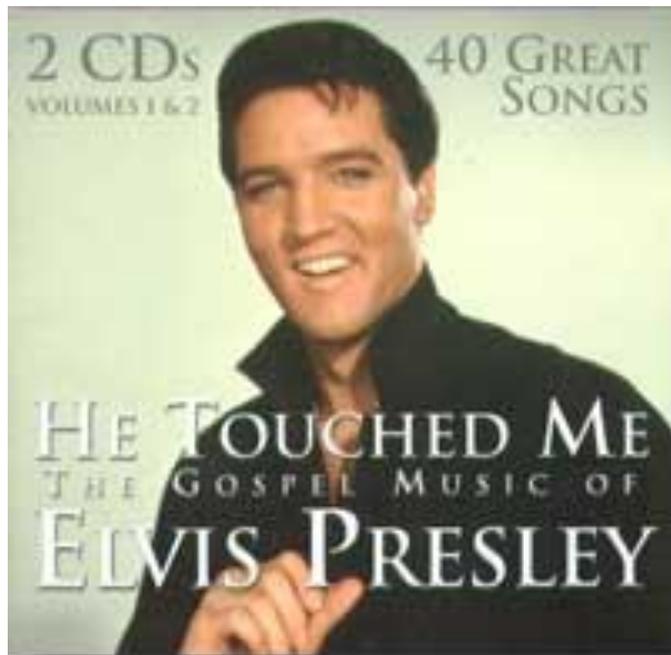


Compartmentalize

“Like so many rhythm & blues superstars -- from Little Richard to Al Green to Prince – R Kelly has long been a divided soul, endlessly trying to reconcile carnal impulses with Christian faith.”

Rolling Stone





Transform

“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.”

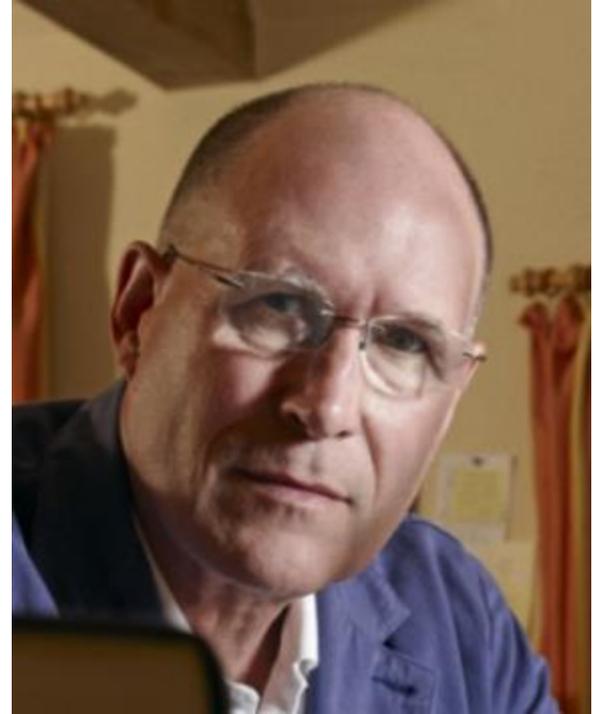
Matthew 5:13,14

“Give me the making of the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws.”

*Andrew Fletcher,
Scottish writer*



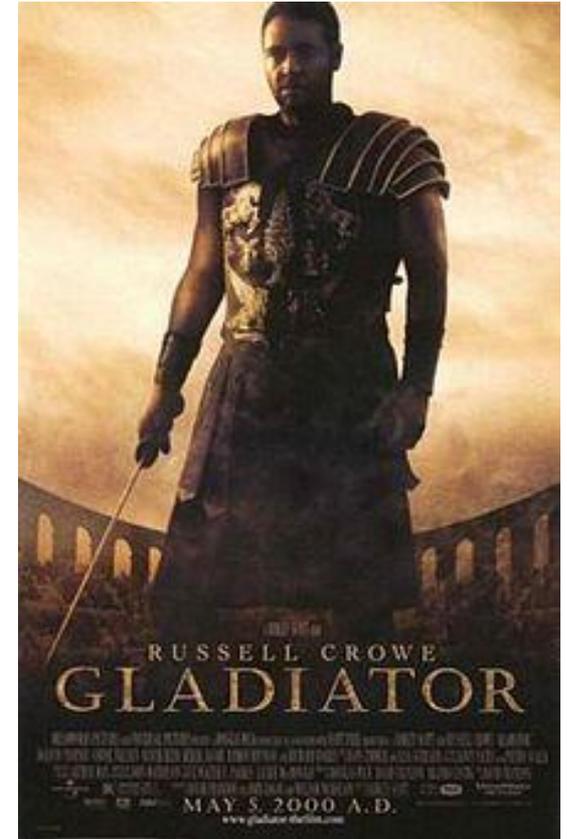
“...stories form our culture. I profoundly believe that. The storytelling impulse is built into us and it’s the way we explain and describe our entire lives, all the time...Every time we write a story we are in fact creating a moral structure and that moral structure is influencing the people who see that film. And they add up, all these films, to a sense of what is acceptable in life and what is not. So we have an enormous power, particularly the movies that are widely seen. You may think if they’re pure entertainment, there is no moral message in it, but that is not true...”



*Bill Nicholson,
Screenwriter,
“Les Miserables”,
“Gladiator”*

Imagine every film you ever saw exalted people with guns and said: ‘The people with guns win because they’ve got guns, and everybody who hasn’t got a gun is a pathetic loser.’ We would develop as a society – perhaps we are developing as a society – where people want guns in order not to be losers.

In fact, that’s not what the movies say. They nearly always show that the person who has right on their side has the ‘best gun’ if you like. I know that is a bit pathetic, but there is a moral story operating there. So we are conditioning our society all the time and we should take responsibility for that.”



“I can remember going to movies in college and crying through them because I saw them as very powerful human expressions of worldviews. Too often, Hollywood movies express lies and ugliness with great detriment. And I would weep, just desiring that God would be glorified in big silver screen stories in the way that lies and falsehoods were too often glorified. So, some of my interest was just simply the desire to see God glorified in a powerful medium of beauty. . . . I want to create beauty that honors God and glorifies Him because when I do, I feel His pleasure. And that is enough for me.”

Brian Godawa, Screenwriter



Our God the Artist



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good.*” *Genesis 1*



Creativity = Godliness

“The heavens declare
the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the
work of his hands.

Day after day they pour
forth speech;
night after night they
display knowledge.”

Psalm 19:1,2



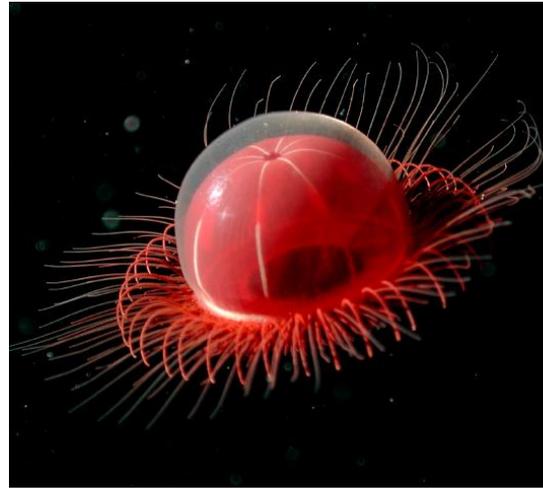
“He determines the number of the stars;
He gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord,
and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.”

Psalm 147:4,5



“So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds...”

Genesis 1:21



“It struck me, after reading my umpteenth book on the problem of pain, that *I have never even seen a book on ‘the problem of pleasure.’* Nor have I met a philosopher who goes around shaking his or her head in perplexity over the question of why we experience pleasure. Yet it looms as a huge question: the philosophical equivalent, for atheists, to the problem of pain for Christians. On the issue of pleasure, Christians can breathe easier. A good and loving God would naturally want his creatures to experience delight, joy, and personal fulfillment. Christians start from that assumption and then look for ways to explain the origin of suffering. *But should not atheists have an equal obligation to explain the origin of pleasure in a world of randomness and meaninglessness?*”

Phillip Yancey



What is Beautiful?

- ◆ God *defines* “beauty”
- ◆ God *created* beauty
- ◆ God *is* beauty



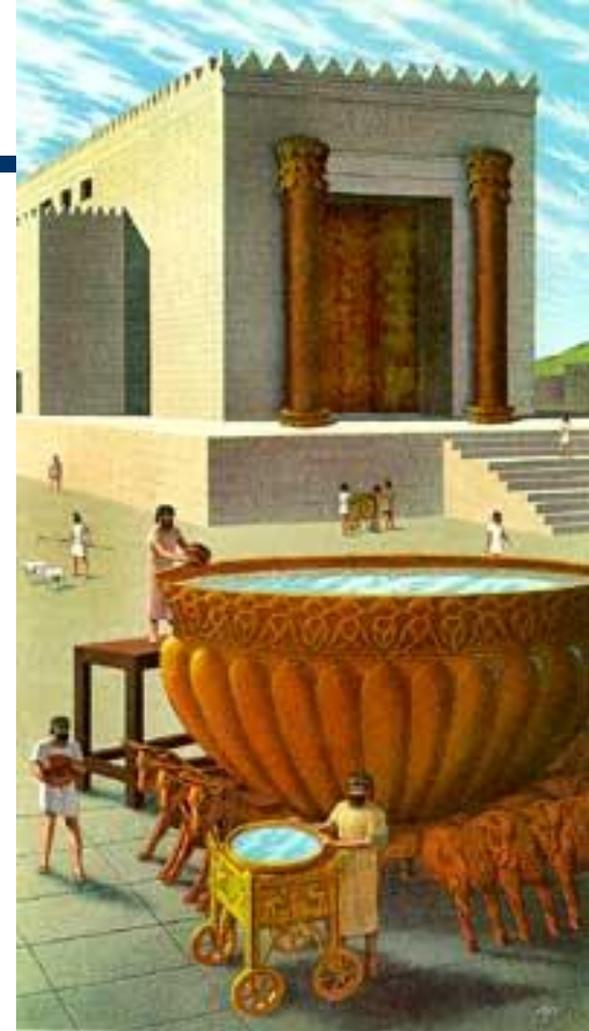
THE VISUAL ARTS

“Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord...The larger room he paneled with cypress which he overlaid with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chainwork on it. And he decorated the house with precious stones *for beauty.*”

II Chronicles 3:6

“For Aaron's sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them *for glory and beauty.*

Exodus 28:40



LITERATURE

- ◆ **Poetry** – “For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame.” *Song of Solomon 8:6*
- ◆ **History** – “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land...” *Exodus 14:21*

LITERATURE

- ◆ ***Songs*** – “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord...”
Ps. 95:1
- ◆ ***Proverbs*** – “A soft answer turns away wrath...”
Prov. 15:1
- ◆ ***Letters*** – “Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.” *I Thessalonians 5:26*
- ◆ ***Visions*** – “And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes...”
Revelation 5:6

DRAMA



- ◆ “...son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem. Lay siege against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around...this will be a sign to the house of Israel.” *Ezekiel 4:1-3*
- ◆ “Then Jesus answered and said, ‘A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves...’
Luke 10:30
- ◆ “...a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea...he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said,... ‘so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt’...” *Acts 21:10,11*

DANCE

- ◆ “So David danced before the Lord with all his might...”
II Samuel 6:14
- ◆ “Let them praise His name with the dance...” *Ps. 149:3*



MUSIC

“Praise the Lord!...Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!...Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

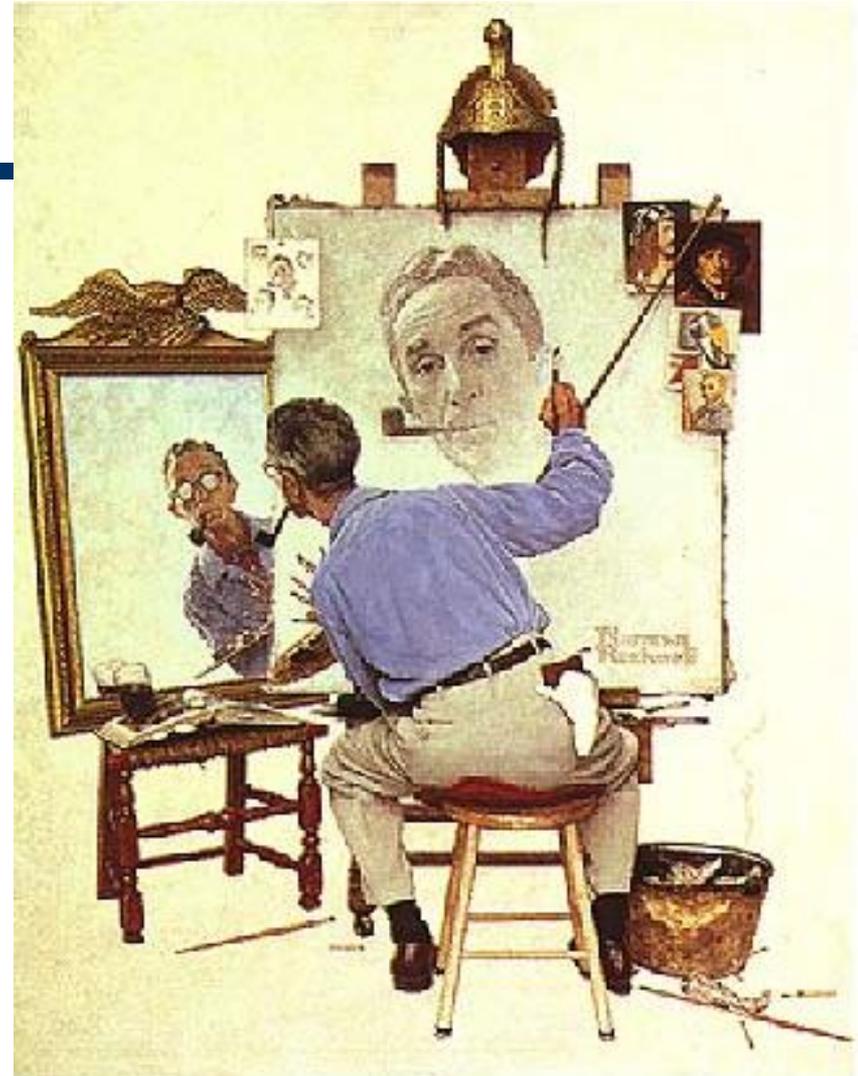
Psalm 150



Made In the Image of Our Creator



- ◆ “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man *in Our image*, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...over all the earth...” *Gen. 1:26*
- ◆ “...you...have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge *according to the image of Him* who created him...” *Col. 3:10*



The Calling of an Artist

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘See, *I have called by name* Bezalel the son of Uri,...And *I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works...I have put wisdom in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans...*’”

Exodus 31:1-6



Godliness = Creativity

“If the opening chapters of Genesis portray God as a creative artist, then it only stands to reason that the people He made in His image will also be artists. Art is an imaginative activity, and in the act of creating, we reflect the mind of our Maker. Like God Himself, said Abraham Kuyper, we have ‘the possibility both to create something beautiful, and to delight in it.’ This is true of all artists, and indeed of all people, but it has special significance for Christians. Because we know God as both our Creator and our Redeemer, we seek to display His beauty and grace in our life and work.”

Philip Graham Ryken

Redeeming the Arts



No Neutrality

“...art can lead you to God...if it's not doing that, it's leading you the other way. It's certainly not leading you nowhere.”

Bob Dylan



Biblical Separation

- ◆ “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

II Corinthians 6:17

- ◆ “Walk as children of light...and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Ephesians 5:8-11

Unbiblical Separation

“There are those professing Christians who have completely rejected the Biblical admonition to ‘come out from among them and be ye separate.’ They prefer to get just as close as possible to the world in their dress, hairstyles, recreational activities, and music and still appear respectable. There is such a short step from this posture to a life of worldly depravity...Not everyone who performs music that is patterned after the world goes into a life of deep sin...but for the Christian, the best road is the ‘high road’ far away from any association with evil.”

Denny Sweatt, Bob Jones University

A False Dichotomy

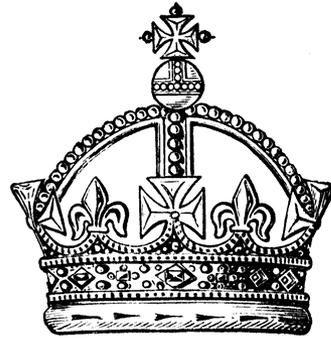
“SECULAR”

- ◆ Work
- ◆ Entertainment
- ◆ Sports
- ◆ Hobbies
- ◆ The Arts

“SACRED”

- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Bible Study
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Fellowship
- ◆ Witness

**“...whatever you do, do it all for the
glory of God.”** *I Corinthians 10:31*



The Lord Jesus Christ

Work

Worship

Bible Study

Sports

Prayer

Hobbies

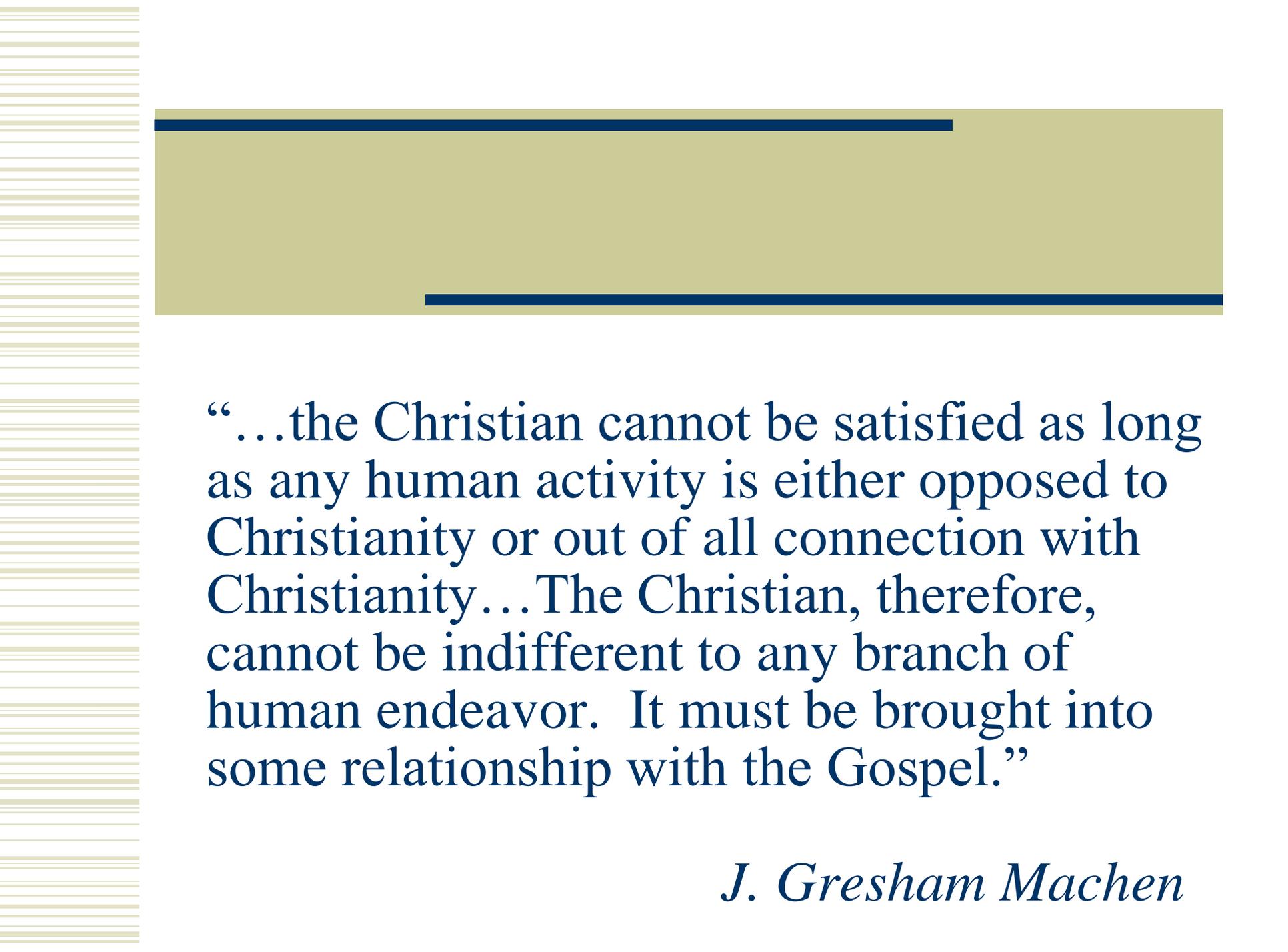
Witness

The Arts



“Historically, Christians have always used art as a vital means of communicating. Tragically, in the twentieth century, the Christian community has virtually divorced itself from this arena.”

Nelson Price

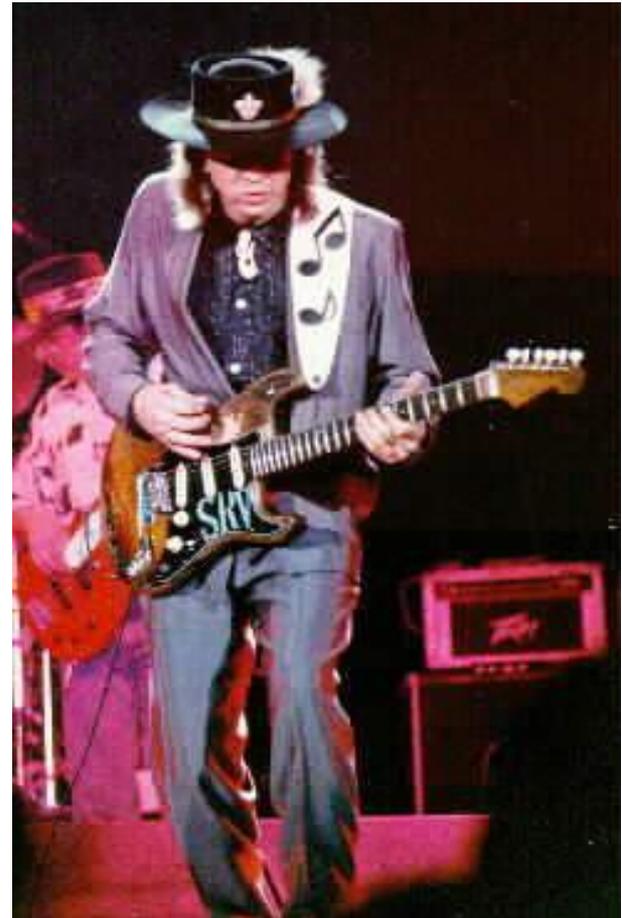


“...the Christian cannot be satisfied as long as any human activity is either opposed to Christianity or out of all connection with Christianity...The Christian, therefore, cannot be indifferent to any branch of human endeavor. It must be brought into some relationship with the Gospel.”

J. Gresham Machen

Biblical Discernment – From what are we to separate?

- ◆ “For *everything God created is good*, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.” I Tim. 4:4
- ◆ “There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things *which come out of him*, those are the things that defile him.” Mark 7:15



Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Music?



“We must distinguish carefully between style and message. Let me say firmly that there is no such thing as a godly style or an ungodly style.”

Francis Schaeffer

What Makes an Art Form “Unclean”?

- ◆ Content
 - The vase
 - Hymns & sermons
- ◆ Context
 - “Sex, drugs, & rock ‘n roll”
 - Art on the fringes



Absolute Standards & Art

- ◆ There is truth and there are lies
 - Os Guinness – “spot the lie”
- ◆ There is good and there is evil
- ◆ There are objective standards for excellence, mediocrity, and garbage
 - Divine principles of art
 - Personal taste

Four Categories of Art

1. Bad Art / False Message
2. Bad Art / True Message
3. Good Art / False Message
4. Good Art / True Message

The Danger of Great Art

“Art is dangerous. It is one of the attractions – when it ceases to be dangerous you don’t want it.”

Duke Ellington

“We should realize that if something untrue or immoral is stated in great art it can be far more destructive and devastating than if it is expressed in poor art...the greater the artistic expression, the more important it is to consciously bring it and its world view under the judgment of Christ and the Bible.”

Francis Schaeffer

“...*art is power*. It influences the mind, the nerves, the feelings, the soul. It carries messages of hope, hostility, derision, and moral rebuke. It can fight material and spiritual evils, and transmit the ideals of a community now living, long past, or soon to be born. In a word, art is deemed universally important because it helps men to live and remember... But in saying that these are truths, we are saying also that *art is dangerous*. It is dangerous, first, because all powerful things can be dangerous, and it is dangerous also because while we tend to venerate art as one great and good thing, its various uses are most often antagonistic: art can dignify and exalt the civilization that gives it birth and also weaken and destroy it.”

Jacques Barzun

Sanctified Rap

“Our culture is extremely narcissistic and man-centered, and it seems that much of Christian music has followed suit. The Bible, however, is radically God-centered, and I believe that a radically God-centered worldview should be reflected in the songs we write...”





“...Because of our man-centered tendencies, the songs we sing about God usually deal with the things we like about Him (which are usually the things that directly benefit us the most), such as His love, mercy and forgiveness, etc. These things are glorious and we should write songs about them. However, if that’s all we talk about, we create an incomplete and deficient view of God, which is not in line with His self-revelation.”

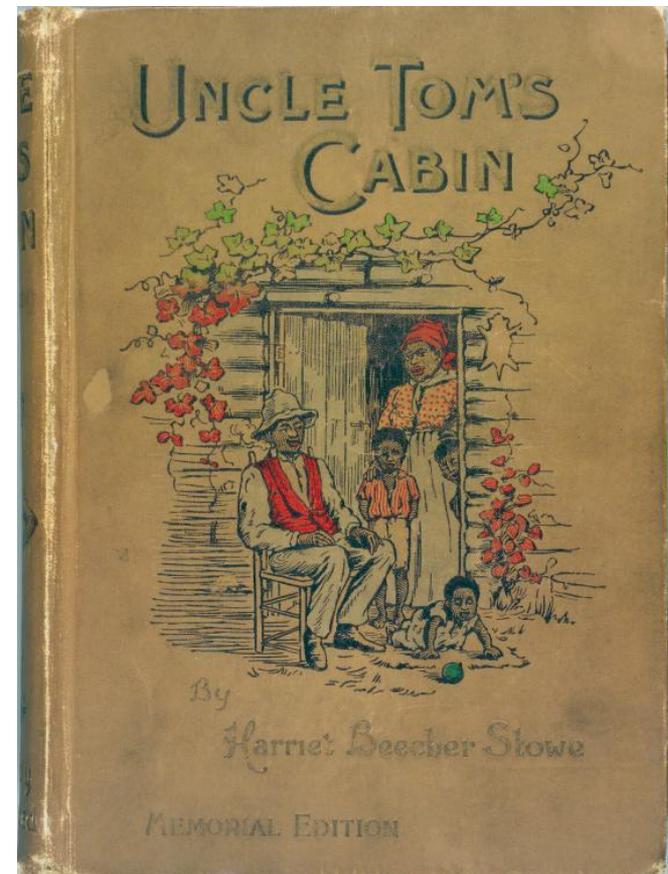
Shai Linne



The Power of Art

According to legend, Abraham Lincoln greeted Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1862 by saying “So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war.”

Frederick Douglas: “She has baptized with holy fire myriads who before cared nothing for the bleeding slave.”



Characteristics of a True Message

- ◆ Consistent with a Biblical world-view
- ◆ Presents sin accurately – *doesn't glorify sin*
- ◆ Points people *toward* God and His grace, not away from Him

The Worldview of the Artist

- C. Scott Shidemantle

- ◆ What is the nature of the world?
- ◆ What is wrong with the world?
- ◆ What is the remedy for the world?
- ◆ Where are things heading in the future?





“...if life informs art, then one does not have to affirm strict allegory for spiritual elements to show up in one’s work. And perhaps Tolkien’s Middle-Earth is even more beloved because its rich spiritual landscape is not manufactured. Instead, it is informed naturally by a man who loved a true story well - and all its elements of courage, friendship, self-sacrifice and more - and allowed it to overflow into his work.”

Anthony Chiorazzi, Relevant Magazine

Four Standards for Judging a Work of Art

- *Francis Schaeffer*

- ◆ **Content** – the worldview in light of God’s Word
- ◆ **Technical Excellence**
- ◆ **Validity** – is the artist honest to himself and his worldview?
- ◆ **Integration of Content & Vehicle** – does the style of art fit the message?
 - Minor and major themes of life

Characteristics of Good Art

- *Steve Lawhead*

- ◆ **Uniqueness** – not an imitation, mass-marketed
- ◆ **Excellence in craftsmanship**
- ◆ **Maturity** – well-developed
- ◆ **Intelligence** – makes you think
- ◆ **Wholeness, consistency** – all the parts fit together
- ◆ **Spontaneity** – the work has “life”; not “packaged”
- ◆ **Durability** – has enduring appeal

Common Grace – Separating Art and Artist

“There are four kinds of people in the realm of art. The first is a born-again man who writes or paints within the total Christian worldview. The second is the non-Christian who expresses his own non-Christian worldview. The third is the man who is personally a non-Christian but nevertheless writes or paints on the basis of the Christian consensus by which he has been influenced...The fourth person is the born-again Christian who does not understand what the total Christian worldview should be and therefore produces art which embodies a non-Christian worldview.”

Francis Schaeffer

Common Grace – Separating Art and Artist

“To measure art and our use and enjoyment of it by the personal worthiness of those who make it or have made it would land us straight in a cultural ghetto. Even more, it would be dishonoring to God. He gives genius and talent to whom He wills. To put it bluntly, for a Christian to say, ‘I will not have anything to do with the great and worthy works of artists whose lives were not good’ is to fall into the impiety of questioning the wisdom of God in bestowing the gifts of His grace where He wills.”

Frank E. Gaebelin

“Plundering the Egyptians”

“...the sinner's wealth is laid up
for the righteous.”

Proverbs 13:22

“And the city has no need of sun
or moon to shine on it, for the
glory of God gives it light, and
its lamp is the Lamb. By its
light will the nations walk, and
*the kings of the earth will bring
their glory into it...*”

Revelation 21:23,24



The Weaker Brother Issue

- ◆ “Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.”

Romans 14:20

- ◆ ‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is beneficial...not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.”

I Corinthians 10:23,24

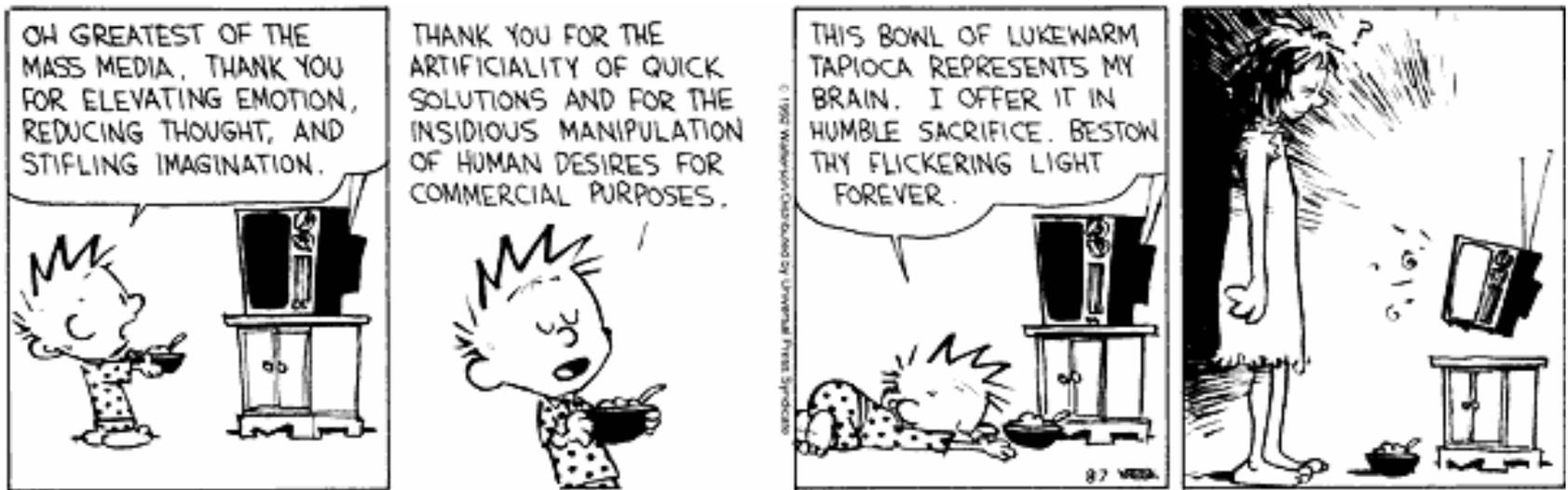
Laying Down Our “Rights” for the Sake of Others

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:4-8

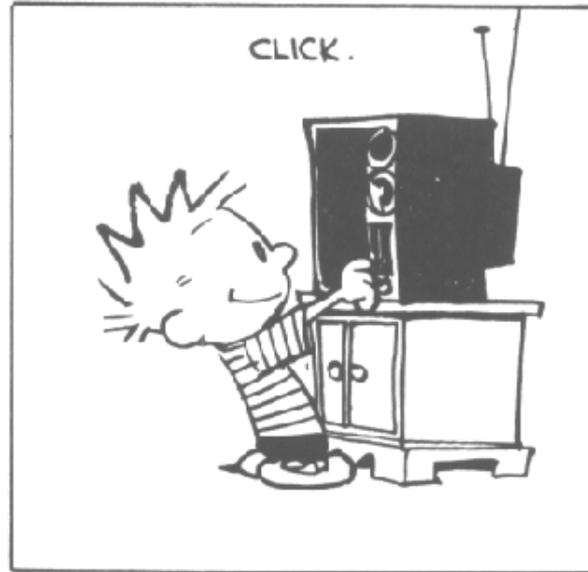


The Idolatry Issue



“ ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but *I will not be dominated by anything*...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

I Corinthians 6:12-20



- ◆ The average person watches 4.5 hours of television a day – 40% of the time not spent eating, sleeping, or working; TV is on in the average American household for 8 hours and 11 minutes (Nielson)
- ◆ The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that in 2007, typical teens and adults spent 3,518 hours “consuming media” (TV, internet, radio, music, movies) – almost 5 months!

Worshipping Art

And [Hezekiah]
broke in pieces the
bronze serpent that
Moses had made,
for until those days
the people of Israel
had made offerings
to it...”

II Kings 18:4



Loving Art as a Reflection of God's Glory

“By emptying Nature of divinity...you may fill her with Deity, for she is now the bearer of messages. There is a sense in which nature-worship silences her – as if a child or a savage were so impressed with the postman’s uniform that he omitted to take in the letters.”

C.S. Lewis

"He loves Thee too little, who loves anything together with Thee, which he loves not for Thy sake.“

St. Augustine

The Goal

“The question becomes...whether as Christians we will aspire to high aesthetic standards. All too often we settle for something that is functional, but not beautiful....Sometimes we produce what can be described only as “kitsch”...Ultimately this kind of art dishonors God because it is not in keeping with the truth and beauty of His character...Art has tremendous power to shape culture and touch the human heart...when Christians abandon the artistic community, we lose a significant opportunity to communicate Christ to our culture. Furthermore, when we settle for trivial expressions of the truth in worship and art, we ourselves are diminished, as we suffer a loss of transcendence. What we need to recover...is a full Biblical understanding of the arts – not for art’s sake, but for God’s sake.”

Philip Graham Ryken

“The Biblical justification for art is clear: We are called to live out the full image of God in every area of life. When God created the world, He cared enough to make it beautiful. His people ought to value creativity and beauty as well...*God does not call His people merely to dissent. He calls us to renew culture by creating things of beauty. The truth is that the best way to drive out bad art is to encourage good art.*”

Chuck Colson

The Need for Biblical Discernment

“Test all things;
hold fast what is
good. *Abstain*
from every form
of evil.”

I Thess. 5:21,22



Review / Examples

1. Bad Art / False Message
2. Bad Art / True Message
3. Good Art / False Message
4. Good Art / True Message

Characteristics of a True Message

- ◆ Consistent with a Biblical world-view
- ◆ Presents sin accurately – *doesn't glorify sin*
- ◆ Points people *toward* God and His grace, not away from Him

Characteristics of Good Art

- *Steve Lawhead*

- ◆ **Uniqueness** – not an imitation, mass-marketed
- ◆ **Excellence in craftsmanship**
- ◆ **Maturity** – well-developed
- ◆ **Intelligence** – makes you think
- ◆ **Wholeness, consistency** – all the parts fit together
- ◆ **Spontaneity** – the work has “life”; not “packaged”
- ◆ **Durability** – has enduring appeal

Bad Art / False Message

Limp Bizkit, "*Break Stuff*"

"It's just one of those days when you don't wanna wake up,
everything is *&^%, everyone &*^%, you don't know really why,
but you wanna justify, rippin' someone's head off,
no human contact and if you interact, you life is on contract,
your best bet is to stay away &^\$#*

...it's just one of those days feeling like a freight train,
first one to complain, leaves with the blood stain,
*&^% right I'm a maniac, you'd better watch your back...



“...I hope you know I pack a chain saw, I'll skin your %\$& raw,
and if my day keeps going like this it just might break,
I just might break something tonight...

I pack a chain saw, I'll skin your %\$& raw,
if my day keeps going like this I just might break your %#!\$ face tonight!
Give me something to break...break your &%\$#! face.

I hope you know I pack a chain saw..... it's just one of those days!
It's all about the “he says, she says”&*%\$,
I think you'd better quit talkin' that ^&#! (punk, so come and get it)...”

Bad Art / False Message – “Christian” Version

Plus One, *My Life*

Wanna go with me? Do I have to wear a shirt and tie?
We can take a limosine, but everybody there will ask us why!
Ain't nothing wrong, we can have a little fun and play
As long as we never forget how to stop and pray!

If you've been set on partying 'til your head is numb
Better not forget that the party is when the Kingdom comes!
Come on and dance all your troubles away
And look through the windows of heaven, it's not too late...



My life, yeah, it's your life, yeah,
Don't wanna get it wrong, it's time to get it right
My life, yeah, need to make a change, time for saving my life

I was a mess, but that was all before I told Him yes,
Now it's all good, 'cause everyone in His will is blessed!
Just let him take all your troubles away
Look through the windows of heaven, it's not too late!

Don't want to wait too long, it might be too late...



Good Art / False Message

John Lennon, *Imagine*

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Good Art / False Message

John Mayer, *No Such Thing*

“Welcome to the real world”,
she said to me, condescendingly,

“Take a seat, take your life,
Plot it out in black and white”

Well I never lived the dreams of the prom kings
And the drama queens, I'd like to think the best of me
Is still hiding up my sleeve

They love to tell you, “Stay inside the lines”
But something's better on the other side...”



I wanna run through the halls of my high school
I wanna scream at the top of my lungs
I just found out there's no such thing as the real world
Just a lie you've got to rise above

So the good boys and girls take the so-called right track
Faded white hats, grabbing credits, maybe transfers
They read all the books, but they can't find the answers
And all of our parents, they're getting older
I wonder if they've wished for anything better
While in their memories, tiny tragedies...

I am invincible as long as I'm alive..."

Good Art / True Message

Jill Phillips, *Moving On*

What we want is a tidy picture
Neat and easy to read
What we get is a trust walk
Finding out what we really believe
Don't you be surprised now when it doesn't lead you
To a clearer place
To some great resolve
You don't have to wonder if He's still beside you
He's as close as breath
You just have to walk

I have seen and I have heard that
this is just the way He works
And I'll take this chance to remind me that
its His grace that keeps me moving
Moving on

What I want is for Him to tell me
I won't always feel this pain
What I get is a constant love
When nothing else stays the same
I won't be surprised now when it doesn't lead me
To a clearer place or to some great resolve
I don't have to wonder if He's still beside me
He's as close as breath
And I just have to walk...

Moving on and on as far as He will take me
When I walk with Him I know

Good Art / True Message

Peter Himmelman, *Impermanent Things*

All these impermanent things,
oh how they fool me, dominate and rule me,
they keep me waiting here forever.

All these impermanent things,
well their beauty's never aging but their worthlessness is enraging,
you know we always stand alone when we're together

So why keep hanging on to things that never stay,
things that just keep stringing us along from day to day.

All these impermanent things,
present yet elusive, passive yet abusive,
tearing out the heart in utter silence.

All these impermanent things,
well they point in all directions like secondhand reflections,
and they are leading us to subtle shades of violence

So why keep hanging on to things that never stay,
things that just keep stringing us along from day to day.

All these impermanent things,
well they're trying to convince me,
baptize my soul and rinse me,
purge my mind of honesty and fire.

All these impermanent things,
well they all add up to zero, they make believe they're my
heroes, then fill my mind with doubt and false desires...

Good Art / True Message

Bruce Springsteen, "*The River*"

I come from down in the valley where mister when you're young
They bring you up to do like your daddy done
Me and Mary we met in high school when she was just seventeen
We'd ride out of this valley down to where the fields were green

We'd go down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we'd ride

Then I got Mary pregnant and, man, that was all she wrote
And for my nineteen birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat
We went down to the courthouse and the judge put it all to rest
No wedding day smiles, no walk down the aisle
No flowers, no wedding dress

That night we went down to the river
And into the river we'd dive, on down to the river we did ride

I got a job working construction for the Johnstown company
But lately there ain't been much work on account of the economy
Now all them things that seemed so important
Well, mister, they vanished right into the air
Now I just act like I don't remember, Mary acts like she don't care

But I remember us riding in my brother's car
Her body tanned and wet down at the reservoir
At night on them banks I'd lie awake
And pull her close just to feel each breath she'd take

Now those memories come back to haunt me, they haunt me like a curse
Is a dream a lie if it don't come true?
Or is it something worse, that sends me...

Down to the river, though I know the river is dry
Down to the river, my baby and I
Oh, down to the river we ride

Johnny Cash – “Hurt”

(written by Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails)

Chorus:

I hurt myself today
to see if I still feel
I focus on the pain
the only thing that's real
the needle tears a hole
the old familiar sting
try to kill it all away
but I remember everything

What have I become?
my sweetest friend
everyone I know
goes away in the end
you could have it all
my empire of dirt

I will let you down
I will make you hurt



I wear this crown of thorns
upon my liar's chair
full of broken thoughts
I cannot repair
beneath the stains of time
the feelings disappear
you are someone else
I am still right here

[*chorus*]

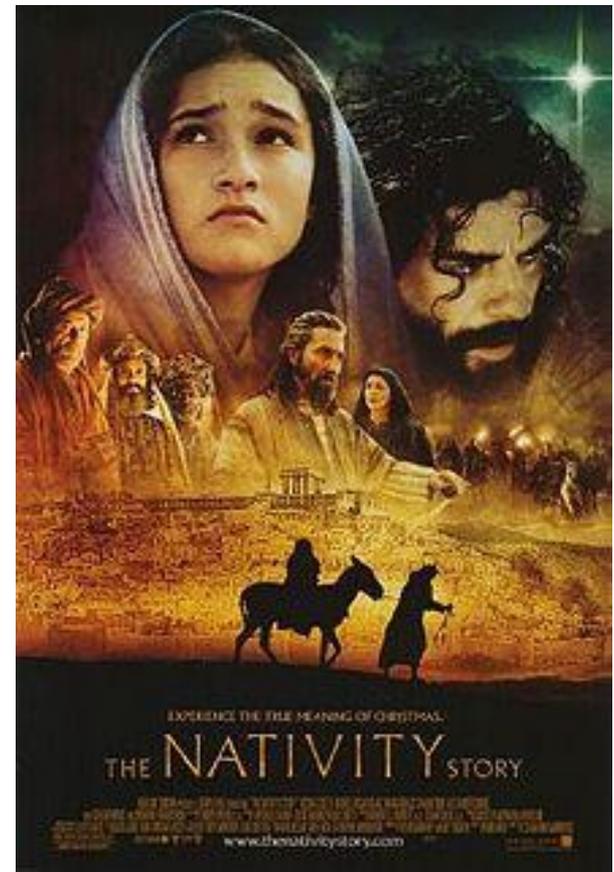
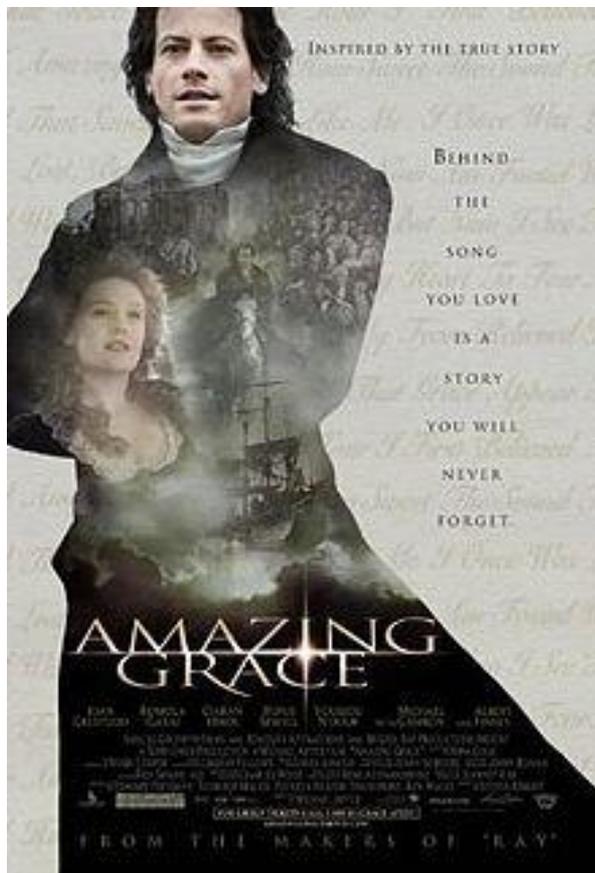
if I could start again
a million miles away
I would keep myself
I would find a way...



Trent Reznor, after seeing the Cash video for “Hurt”
the first time:

“I pop the video in, and wow... Tears welling, silence, goose-bumps... wow. I just lost my girlfriend, because that song isn't mine anymore. ... It really made me think about how powerful music is as a medium and art form. I wrote some words and music in my bedroom as a way of staying sane, about a bleak and desperate place I was in, totally isolated and alone. [Somehow] that winds up reinterpreted by a music legend from a radically different era/genre and still retains sincerity and meaning – different, but every bit as pure.”

Good Art / True Message



Good Art / True Message

