

# In His Shadow Creations

Advancing God's Kingdom through the Worship Arts

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## Art reflects God; some principles

We are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). We have been given creativity, imagination, understanding and all kinds of artistic abilities. In all we are and through all we do, we are created to bring glory back to God. We are designed to acknowledge Him in all things. In so doing, we reflect Christ's image here on Earth.

What are some of the characteristics of Christ's image? They are hope, love, goodness, compassion, kindness and justice. For believers in Christ, these are the characteristics our talents should display to all the earth.

If all of our lives are lived in worship to God, we are "living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1) and all that we do is for the praise of His glory. If God is central in our lives, in our thoughts and in all the work of our hands, then our art brings a message of love. Our art is full of hope and it reflects God's goodness. Our art will also inspire righteousness, bring beauty, show redemption and display God's sovereignty. Who we are as people is reflected in our art. That which fills our hearts is revealed through our art.

Being made in God's image, we as people have a natural appreciation for things that are beautiful and things that are good. People long for order, look for pattern, desire color, and seek harmony. We are told in Philippians 4: 6 & 7, "Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

We each have a fallen nature; we have been corrupted by sin. We have a fleshly nature that fights against the things of God, (Galatians 5:17). This is why we are told in Proverbs 4 to "...guard our hearts so we don't allow that fountain of life in us to be polluted." This is why we are told in Galatians 5:17 to "Walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh." This is why we are told to "not believe every spirit, but to test them to see if they are from God," (I John 4:1). We are told "not to depend on our own understanding, but in all our ways to acknowledge God, that He may direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

In all these ways, God calls us to apply wisdom. We therefore must use discernment, not only to interpret the art around us, but to be Holy Spirit-inspired in the art we produce.

Our enemy, the devil, has come only to "kill, steal and destroy in every area," (John 10:10) including the arts. Art apart from God has lost all meaning, value and beauty. In a Godless void, everything becomes ugly. When we remove the attributes of God from our work, we remove goodness, beauty, and hope. All that is left in godless art is corruption, desolation and despair. Art is never an end in itself. We must not worship art, for if we do, we are guilty of idolatry; and it becomes as the golden calf that led Israel astray, (Exodus 32:4).

However, Christ has come to restore all things to Himself, (Acts 3:21). Death is conquered even in the art world. As we abide in Christ, our art becomes purified to become once again a vessel and a tool for

*Expressing passionate worship through the arts.*

righteousness. Pure art comes out of pure hearts, and pure hearts only come from where Christ dwells, (John 15:4 & 5).

This is what we are told: God gives us “beauty for ashes,”(Isaiah 61:3). Sin no longer has dominion over us, (Romans 6:14) and we are released to again see the beauty – the beauty of God’s creation, of goodness and truth, and of the restorative love of God displayed in all His hand has touched. Again there is hope. Again there is meaning. Again there is the joy of reflecting the beauty of God’s creation in our work.

Surely God is good; all that he gives us is good. As believers, this is what our art must display.

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