

In His Shadow Creations

Advancing God's Kingdom through the Worship Arts

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MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

As a people made in God's image, we have a natural appreciation for things beautiful and good. We have been given creativity, imagination, understanding, and all kinds of artistic abilities. We long for order, pattern, color, and harmony. Our life should be a living sacrifice in all we are and in all we do for His praise and glory. Our lives must be lived in worship to God, and in all things we must acknowledge Him. When we reflect Christ's image and His love on earth, our art will bring a message of hope and beauty. It will show forth redemption, reflect His goodness, inspire righteousness, and display God's sovereignty.

**ART IS NEVER
AN END IN
ITSELF. IT
MUST NEVER
BE WORSHIPED
OR WE WOULD
BE GUILTY OF
IDOLATRY.**

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.
(Philippians 4:6-7)

God must be central in our lives, in our thoughts, and in the work of our hands. When we remove God from our artwork, we remove goodness, beauty, and hope. All that is left in godless art is corruption, desolation, and despair. Who we are as people is reflected in our artwork. What is in our hearts will be displayed. As Christians, all our artwork should bring honor and glory to God.

PURIFIED ART

We all have fallen natures and have been corrupted by sin. Our fleshly nature fights against the things of God. We are told in Proverbs 4:23 to guard our heart – so we don't allow that fountain of life, which is God's life in us, to be polluted. Romans 8:4 says to walk according to the spirit and not according to the flesh. In Proverbs 3:5, 6 we are told not to depend on our own understanding, but in all our ways to acknowledge him, that he may direct our paths. In 1 John 4:1 it says not to believe every spirit, but to test them to see if they are from God. We, therefore, must use discernment not only to interpret the art around us, but also to monitor the art that we ourselves produce. Art is never an end in itself. It must never be worshiped or it will become a form of idolatry – like the golden calf that led Israel astray. As our artwork becomes purified, it will become a tool for righteousness. Pure art comes from pure hearts, and pure hearts only come from where Christ dwells.

RESTORING ART

The enemy, the evil one, has come only to steal, kill, and destroy in every area, including the arts. Art apart from God has lost all meaning, value, and beauty. In a Godless void, everything becomes ugly.

Expressing passionate worship through the arts.

Christ has come to restore all things – *all things*. Death has been conquered even in the art world. In His Word, we are told God gives us beauty for ashes. Sin no longer has to have dominion over us, and we have been released again to see the beauty – the beauty of God’s creation, the beauty of goodness and truth, and the beauty of the restorative love of God displayed in all His hand has touched. Again there is hope, meaning, and the joy of reflecting the beauty of God’s creation in our artwork. Surely God is good; all that He gives us is good. This is what our artwork must display!

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