

# The Arts & Apologetics of Worship

## 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

### INTRODUCTION:

#### **Chuck Swindoll**

To be used of God. Is there anything more encouraging, more fulfilling? Perhaps not, but there is something more basic: to meet with God. To linger in His presence, to shut out the noise of the city and, in quietness, give Him the praise He deserves. Before we engage ourselves in His work, let's meet Him in His Word... in prayer... in worship.

Last week, we ended with this quote regarding our need to “before we engage ourselves in His work, let’s meet Him in His Word...in prayer...in worship.” Assuming that is what we do, what will the work begin to look like regarding its relationship to our understanding that our worship is in fact our service? If our service is our worship, what does that mean? It means either individually as a follower or collectively as a family two elements should be instrumental in leading others to the One, we worship. The Arts & Apologetics.

#### **1 Corinthians 10:31- 33**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

Therefore, all activities that we involve ourselves in involve the idea of worship whether is serving food to the youth, creating a sculpture, welding a fence, building a house, or having a conversation with those who have questions, these services reveal our worship. Are we working for our employer as unto the Lord? Are we being creative to show the glory of God’s design? Are we learning for the sake of defending our faith through answers? These are the task of the worshipper of Christ in how worship manifests, or reveals itself, in our daily lives, in all areas of what it means to be human.

#### **William Temple**

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose.

## I. The Arts – Creativity

- A. God has allowed us to participate in Creation. (Genesis 2:19-20)
- B. God created us in His image (Imago Dei), therefore, as humans we are creative.

### Dorothy Sayers

It makes sense why mankind is so creative since we are created in the Image of a Creator.

### Ephesians 2:8-10

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### J. Richard Middleton

Genesis 1:26-28 combines all the foregoing motifs in the idea of humans as Imago Dei. These verses portray humans as created to rule over the animal kingdom (Psalm 8) and to subdue the earth...By its emphasis on agriculture and animal husbandry, which are the basis for human societal organization, Genesis 1 ultimately envisions the development of all aspects of culture, technology, and civilization.

- C. This development involves creativity which reveals the one in whose Image we are made.
- D. God skills us to be innovative and creative.

### Exodus 35:30-35

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; <sup>31</sup> and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, <sup>32</sup> to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, <sup>33</sup> in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. <sup>34</sup> And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. <sup>35</sup> He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet

yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

**J. Richard Middleton, *New Heavens and New Earth* pg. 47.**

This Imago Dei theme also makes sense of the portrayal of Bezalel, who is put in charge of constructing the tabernacle in Exodus 31 (see parallel in Exodus 35). As the master artisan who is to supervise the other skilled workers, Bezalel is filled with God's Spirit (the same Spirit that hovered over the unformed world in Genesis 1:2) and also with the very same triad of qualities by which God made the world – wisdom, understanding, and knowledge – so that he can execute artistic designs using gems, metals, stone, and wood. By imaging or embodying God's wisdom in creation, Bezalel is able to practice good craftsmanship in the building of the tabernacle.

**Dorothy Sayers, *The Mind of the Maker: The Expression of Faith through Creativity and Art***

In art, the Trinity is expressed in the Creative Idea, the Creative Energy, and the Creative Power—the first imagining of the work, then the making incarnate of the work, and third the meaning of the work.”

**E.** Christians need to be inspired and use the imagination God has given us in our creativity.

**Francis A. Schaeffer, Art & the Bible**

“Christians . . . ought not to be threatened by fantasy and imagination. Great painting is not "photographic": think of the Old Testament art commanded by God. There were blue pomegranates on the robes of the priest who went into the Holy of Holies. In nature, there are no blue pomegranates. Christian artists do not need to be threatened by fantasy and imagination, for they have a basis for knowing the difference between them and the real world "out there." The Christian is the really free person--he is free to have imagination. This too is our heritage. The Christian is the one whose imagination should fly beyond the stars.”

**F.** Art and Creativity under the authority of Truth invite us to explore the mind of God.

**C.S. Lewis**

For they (art and music) are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.

**Lewis depicts in the Chronicles of Narnia, God singing creation into existence.**

“In the darkness something was happening at last. A voice had begun to sing. It was very far away and Digory found it hard to decide from what direction it was coming. Sometimes it seemed to come from all directions at once. Sometimes he almost thought it was coming out of the earth beneath them. Its lower notes were deep enough to be the voice of the earth herself. There were no words. It was hardly a tune. But it was beyond comparison, the most beautiful sound he had ever heard. It was so beautiful he could hardly bear it...”



**The Trinity by Andrei Rublev**  
1411 or 1425–27.

## II. Apologetics – Reason & Conviction

This term, apologetics, is a term that is new to many in the church today even though it has been around forever. Our word apologetics is a transliteration of the Greek word “apologia” which means ‘to make a defense.’ It is the combination of two words “apo” (from) and “logos” (logic) which literally could be translated as “from logic.”

### 1 Peter 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

A. People should know what we believe when interacting with us.

B. Therefore, we show know what we believe.

C. The best “apologetic” for the world to see is the way we live our lives.

D. People should know what we believe when worshipping alongside us because they hear our songs, hear our sermons, hear our Scripture readings, and even hear our creeds.

E. Now what is a creed? A creed is “a statement of the beliefs or aims which guide someone’s actions.” Why were creeds necessary? Because the printing press was not invented and so people didn’t have ways of taking a text home and memorizing it. This is where oral tradition played an enormous role, and scribes copied endlessly what they could.

F. The Bible is full of little creeds such as:

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
2. Philippians 2:6-22
3. Colossians 1:15-20

G. Later the early church put creeds along the way to help summarize their beliefs such as the Apostle’s Creed and the Nicene Creed.

H. What do you believe?

## **New Creation Creed of B3C**

Jeff Jackson

We believe in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, & Spirit, of coequal essence, the Maker of Heaven & Earth.  
(*Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-5*)

We believe the Father sent the Son through the power of the Spirit to be the redeemer of all mankind so that all of God's good creation could be rescued and restored. (*John 3:16*)

We believe there is no other way to God and the grace that leads to salvation in any other name than the name of Jesus Christ. (*Acts 4:12, John 14:6*)

We believe that salvation, the forgiveness of sins and being made right and at peace with God, is by grace alone, through faith alone, in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. (*Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-10*)

We believe Christ as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam successfully completed the task of being a true human in what the 1st Adam failed to do because of his disobedience. (*Romans 5:12-21*)

We believe Christ sent by the Father was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem through the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2*)

We believe Christ through obedience to the Father lived a righteous life, was nailed to a Roman cross by Pontius Pilate, therefore, taking upon Himself the sins of humanity as a substitutional atonement, then buried and dead for 3 days, yet came back to life in glorious resurrection defeating the dark powers and ushering in God's new future to the present. He now reigns at the right hand of the Holy Father in Heaven.

(*Mt. 26:39, Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 2:22-25, 1 Cor. 15, Heb. 1:1-4, 1 Jn 2:2*)

We believe all truth is God's truth but the Divine truth for the purpose of salvation and godly living is revealed through the life of the Son and the recorded Scriptures alone which are the final authority of faith. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)

We believe the church, a New Creation colony, is not a building but a body of believers who have committed their lives to Christ through faith, therefore, following in believer's baptism, identifying their life with the life, death, and resurrection of Christ in the fellowship of God's Spirit and the redeemed saints now called God's children. (*Matthew 16:13-20, Romans 6:1-14, Galatians 3:3:27-29*)

We believe the mission of the church is the Great Commission to tell others the good news of God's wondrous salvation in Christ, as well as the discipleship of believers in the way, the will, and the love of God on Earth as in Heaven until Christ, the King returns. (*Matthew 6:10, 28:18-20, 2 Cor. 5:11-21*)

We believe the Lord's Communion table is for all who profess Christ as their Lord and Savior which reminds us of what He did for us in the past, as we live in the present, awaiting His arrival in the future. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

We believe that Christ will return to judge the living and the dead, some to everlasting bliss and others to everlasting torment, as well as bring with Him the saints who have gone on before, thereby, ushering Heaven's return to Earth, the final resurrection of the saints, and inaugurating New Creation with the Lord Jesus as King, the Sovereign, and true Savior. (*Matthew 13:24-30, 2 Cor. 5:10, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Revelation 20-22*)

## CONCLUSION

### **William Temple**

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose.

### **Hugh Ross**

“The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism reads, “What is the chief end of man?” The Catechism’s answer: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.”[10] God graciously linked the pursuit of our chief purpose with our greatest experience of joy.”

### **Psalm 135:3**

Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.