



RAW

CREATIVES AND THEIR CREATOR

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Have you ever wondered?

- **WHERE ARE THE 'SOLID' CHRISTIAN CREATIVES?**
- **DOES SOLID THEOLOGY STIFLE CREATIVITY?**
- **HOW DO I GLORIFY GOD AS A CREATIVE PERSON?**

THE GOAL OF THIS WORKSHOP

Imago Dei - from the Latin meaning “image of God”

Our primary focus for this workshop will come from the topic of the *imago Dei* in scripture and building a Gospel-centered theology of God-glorifying creativity.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?



Catacomb of Domitilla, Rome



Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus (359)



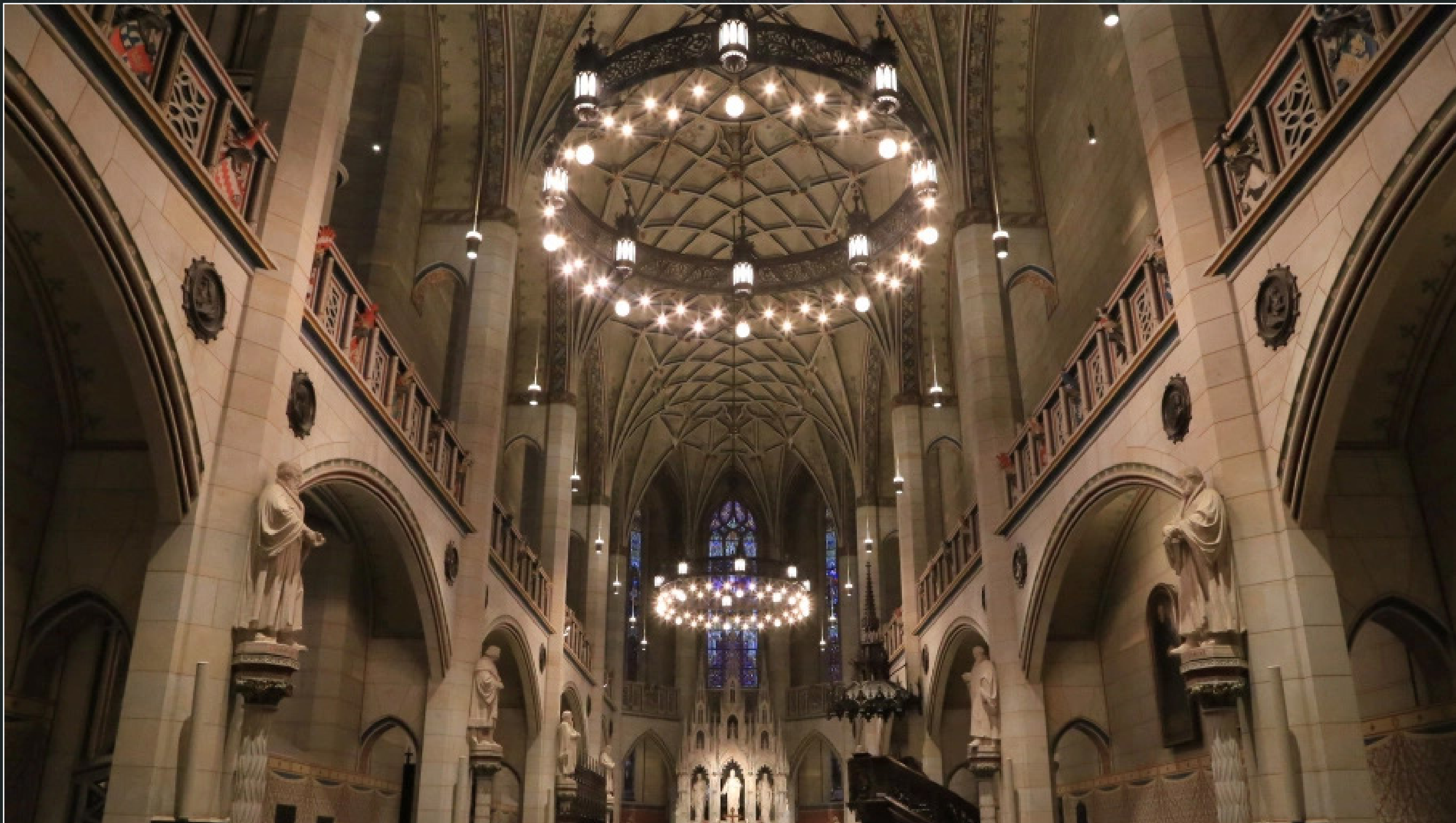
Stoning of St. Stephen - Rembrandt



Notre-Dame Reims Cathedral, France



Sainte Chapelle, France

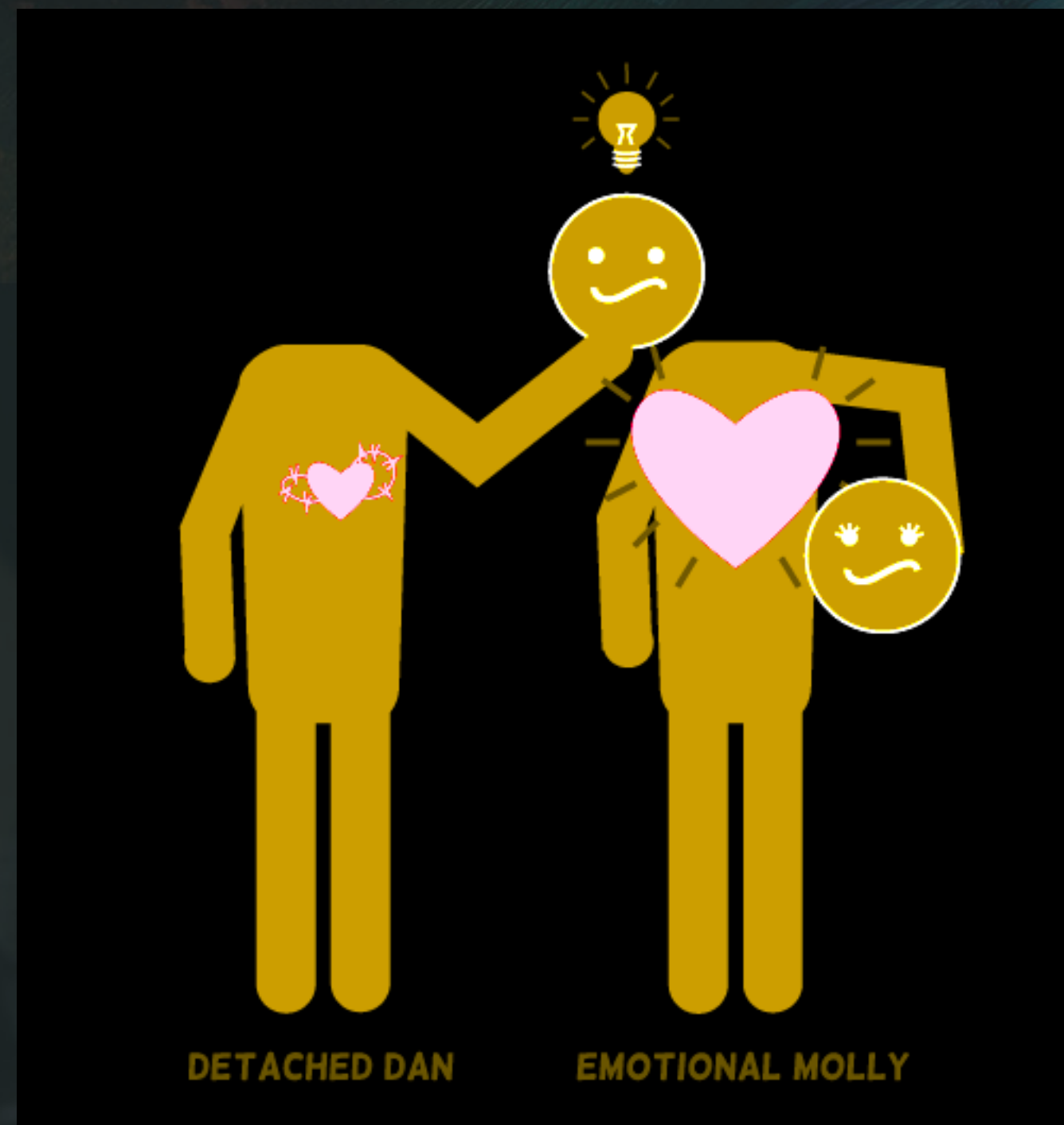


All Saints Church, Germany

The Great Awakening - 18th Century



SOME EVANGELICALS, WHO MOVED AWAY FROM THEIR REFORMED THEOLOGICAL ROOTS, ENDED UP BECOMING LIKE BEINGS WITH HEADS DETACHED FROM THEIR HEARTS.



Yet, as Francis Schaeffer has noted,
when God saves someone, He
doesn't just save their soul,
but also their mind and affections,
He saves the whole person.

WHAT IS A THEOLOGY OF CREATIVITY?



WHAT IS A THEOLOGY OF CREATIVITY?

A theology of creativity is simply a holistic look at scripture's teachings on creativity and aesthetics in order to understand how it all fits into God's big picture.

It is how we reconcile the disconnect between our hearts and our heads.



THIS WORKSHOP IS INTENTIONALLY DEEPLY
THEOLOGICAL BECAUSE I WANT CREATIVES TO SEE THAT:

**CREATIVITY AND THEOLOGY
ARE NOT AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER,
BUT *VITALLY INTERCONNECTED.***



SO, HERE'S THE BIG QUESTION:

**HOW DOES THE GOSPEL
SHAPE OUR CREATIVITY?**

THE GOSPEL

HOPECHURCHTW.CA/GOSPEL

GOD | MAN & SIN | CHRIST | RESPONSE



GOD AS CREATOR

MAN & SIN MARRED CREATIVITY

CHRIST REDEEMED CREATIVITY

OUR RESPONSE AS CREATIVES



GO!

THE CREATOR
(GENESIS 1 & 2)



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

A. GOD IS THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE

GENESIS 1 - "CREATE"





1. CREATION & BEAUTY

A. GOD IS THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE

GENESIS 1 - "CREATE"

- *VERSE 1* - overall summary statement: "in the beginning, God created... everything"
- *VERSE 21* - the first mention of the creation of all animal life.
- *VERSE 27* - God's special creation - mankind in His image.



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

A. GOD IS THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE

GOD'S "CREATING" ACTIVITIES IN GENESIS 1"

- *SEPARATING*
- *ORGANIZING*
- *BRINGING FORM TO WHAT WAS FORMLESS*
- *NAMING*
- *GIVING PURPOSE*

DAYS OF GENESIS 1

DAY 1

DAY 4

DAY 2

DAY 5

DAY 3

DAY 6

DAYS OF GENESIS 1

DAY 1	Light & Dark (The Heavens)	DAY 4	
DAY 2	Skies & Seas	DAY 5	
DAY 3	Dry Land	DAY 6	

DAYS OF GENESIS 1

DAY 1	Light & Dark (The Heavens)	DAY 4	Sun, Moon & Stars
DAY 2	Skies & Seas	DAY 5	Birds & Sea Creatures
DAY 3	Dry Land	DAY 6	Land Animals & Humans



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

A. WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD AS CREATIVE?

GOD'S CREATIVITY BRINGS HIS ORDER, BEAUTY AND PURPOSE.



OUR RESPONSE:

**OUR CREATIVITY SHOULD BRING GOD'S
ORDER, BEAUTY AND PURPOSE.**



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

A. GOD IS THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

A REPEATED PHRASE IN GENESIS 1:

"GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD..."



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

A REPEATED PHRASE IN GENESIS 1:

"GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD..."

NOT JUST A PRAGMATIC DECLARATION...

*SEE GENESIS 2:9 - "PLEASANT TO THE SIGHT AND
GOOD FOR FOOD."*



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

6 TIMES WE SEE THE PHRASE:

"GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD..."

ON THE 7TH TIME:

*"GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE,
AND BEHOLD, IT WAS VERY GOOD."*



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

I. BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER





1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

I. BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

- GOD DEFINES WHAT IS GOOD.
- GOD IS ALWAYS THE PRIMARY VIEWER.

When we ask:
“WHAT IS GOOD ART OR CREATIVITY?”
THAT IS ESSENTIALLY A THEOLOGICAL QUESTION.



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

I. BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

II. SHARED "BEHOLDING"



1. CREATION & BEAUTY

B. GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER

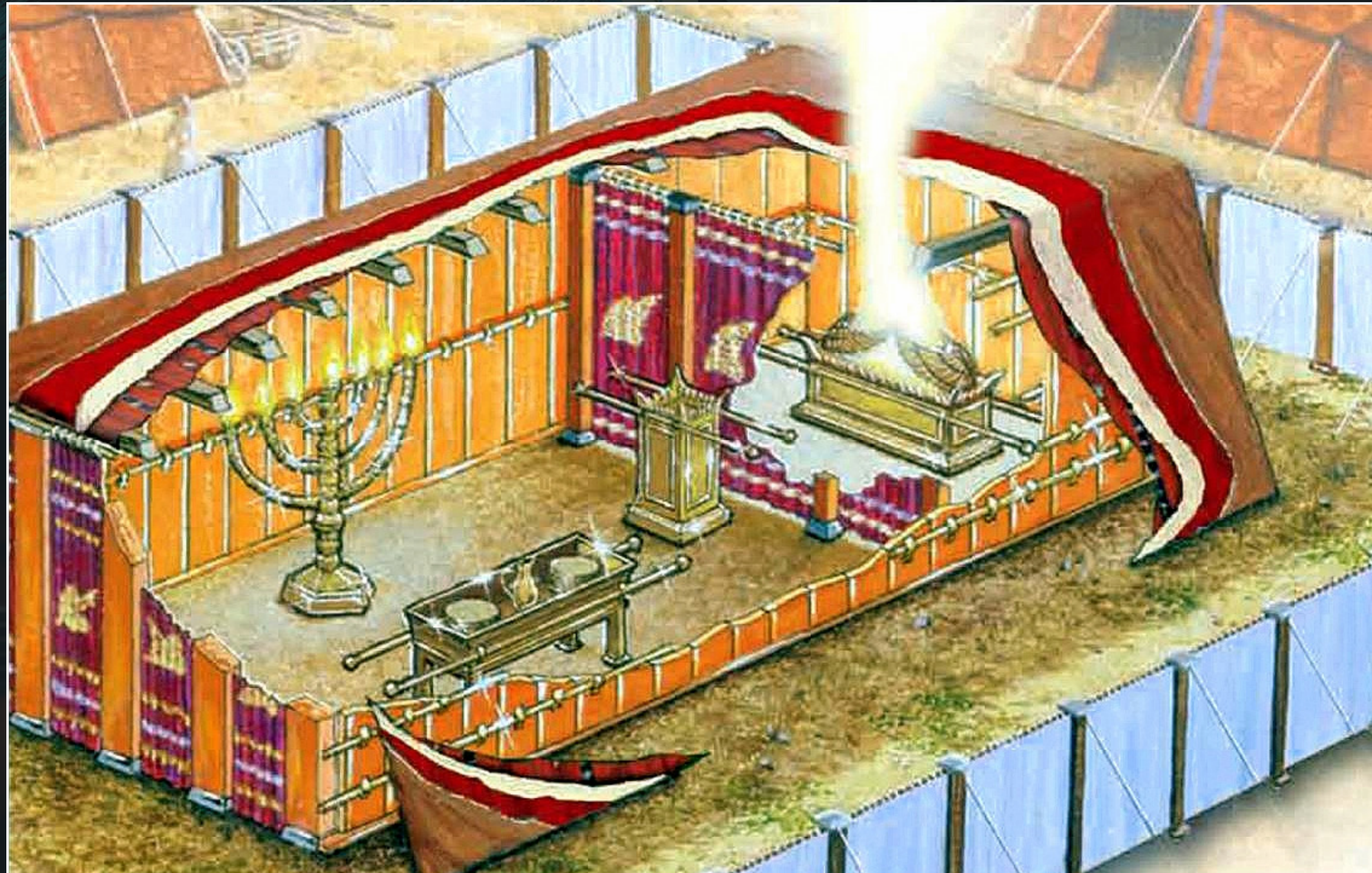
I. BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

II. SHARED "BEHOLDING"

WE ARE INVITED INTO SHARING IN GOD'S
SEEING AND APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY
AND GOODNESS

THE TABERNACLE (EXODUS 25 - 30)

GOD'S APPRECIATION OF ART, BEAUTY & CREATIVITY





“All the arts come from God and are to be
respected as divine inventions.”

(John Calvin, Commentary on Exodus)



OUR RESPONSE:

WE ARE TO ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GOD IS THE PRIMARY VIEWER WHOSE OPINION MATTERS, AND WE ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN HIS VISION OF CREATIVITY AND BEAUTY.



2. UNDERSTANDING BEAUTY

GOD'S TRIADIC GLORY



2. UNDERSTANDING BEAUTY

GOD'S TRIADIC GLORY

EXODUS 33:19

"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you **(showing)**, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence **(telling)**. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion **(doing)**."



2. UNDERSTANDING BEAUTY

GOD'S TRIADIC GLORY & CREATIVES

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO US?

God is the source of beauty and also the primary Beholder.

So then, for our creativity to truly be beautiful, it must be derived from God - the Originator of Beauty.



2. UNDERSTANDING BEAUTY

3 ASPECTS OF BEAUTY

TELLING | SHOWING | DOING

TRUTH | AESTHETICS | POWER

CONTENT | FORM | PURPOSE

3 ASPECTS OF BEAUTY

1. TRUTH - it must tell a true story, in agreement with God's truth.

2. AESTHETICS - its forms must be (to borrow from Genesis 2) "pleasing to the eyes" - pleasant sensory reception.

3. POWER - it must do something, achieve some goal, have power, or purpose that corresponds with God's purposes.



2. UNDERSTANDING BEAUTY

3 ASPECTS OF BEAUTY

These 3 things are meant to work together to arouse a response in our affections and emotions.

When God saw that what He created was 'very good' - this is not some merely dispassionate statement of fact - but also a ***passionate exclamation of His delight and satisfaction*** in the work of His hands.



2. UNDERSTANDING BEAUTY

**DIVINE CREATIVITY DOES MORE THAN
DEMONSTRATE GOD'S GLORY, IT DEMANDS
A RESPONSE.**



OUR RESPONSE:

WE MUST USE GOD'S STANDARDS FOR BEAUTY (CONTENT, FORM AND PURPOSE - TRUTH, AESTHETICS AND POWER - TELLING, SHOWING AND DOING).

WE MUST REALIZE THAT GOD'S GLORY DEMANDS A RESPONSE.



Man

MARRIED CREATIVITY

(GENESIS 3)



1. IMAGO DEI

MANKIND - GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

GENESIS 1:26-29



“Man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God’s face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself.”

(John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1:1:2)



1. IMAGO DEI

**WE ARE ALL REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S GLORY.
WE CANNOT HELP BUT IMAGE GOD.**

We cannot escape the reality of God because every face
in every crowd staring back at you confronts you with
His likeness.



1. IMAGO DEI

IMAGING GOD IN CREATIVITY & CULTURE

This imaging of God: to fill the earth and subdue it, to cultivate the Garden, to exercise dominion and make the earth fruitful. This is the basis for the creation of culture itself. This is why creatives tend to be the ones leading and even making culture.

Your creative talents are meant to reflect the glory of God because they ultimately derive from and reflect His talents.



“every act of creativity, in its essence, is an act of worship, a doxological expression of your true humanity and purpose.”

(Thomas Terry & Ryan Lister, Images & Idols, 15)



1. IMAGO DEI

**YOUR CREATIVITY - RIGHTLY AIMED - IS
WORSHIP TO GOD.**



OUR RESPONSE:

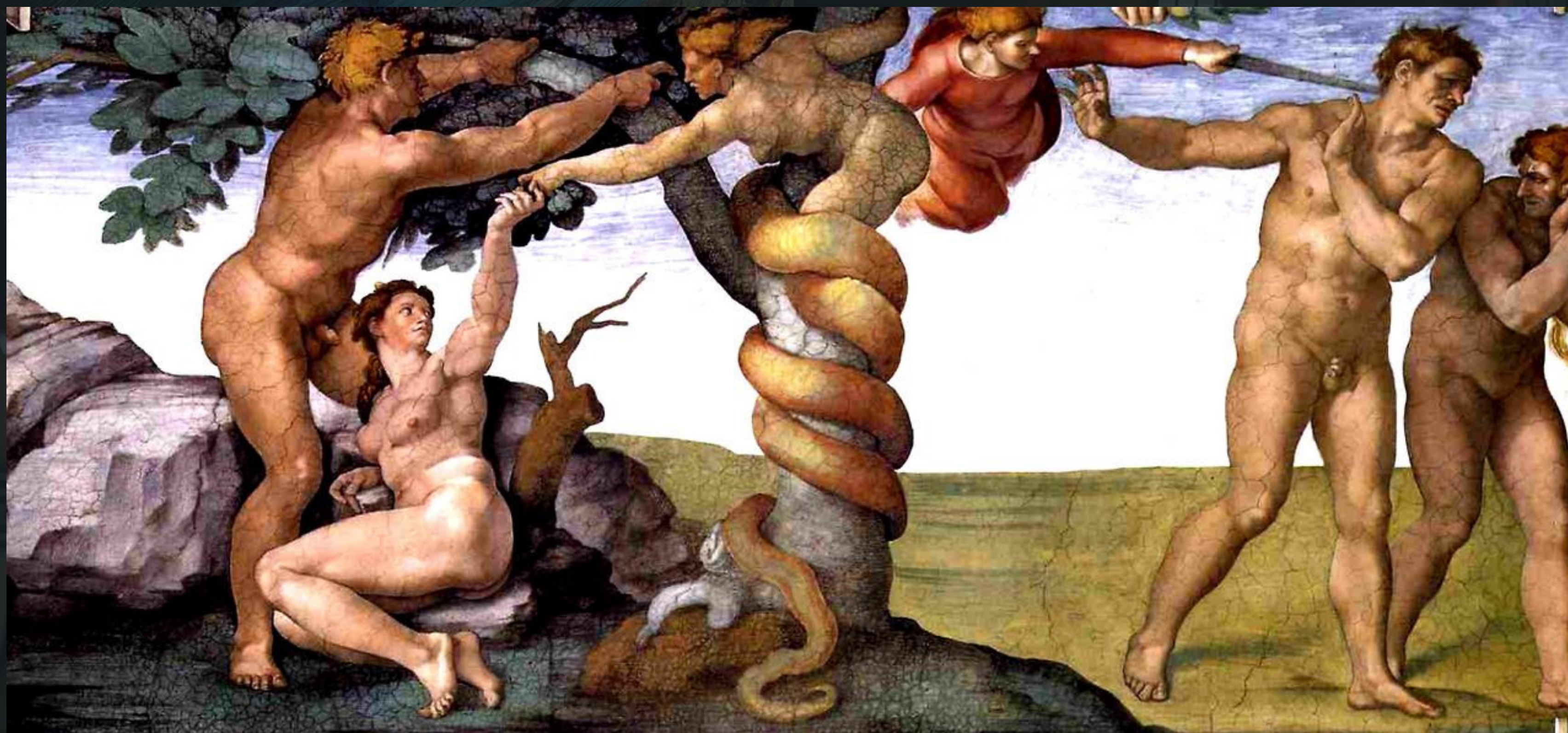
**THE USE OF YOUR CREATIVE TALENTS
IMAGES GOD AND REFLECTS HIS GLORY
BECAUSE THEY COME FROM HIM.**

RIGHTLY AIMED, IT IS WORSHIP TO GOD.



2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

GENESIS 3: OUR CORRUPTED VISION





2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

GENESIS 3: OUR CORRUPTED VISION

GENESIS 3:6

“So when the woman ***saw that the tree was good for food***, and that it was a ***delight to the eyes***, and that the tree was to be ***desired to make one wise***, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”



2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

THE CORRUPTED TRIAD

- **Truth, telling and content are corrupted:** God's word is distrusted.
- **Showing, aesthetics and form are corrupted:** God's declaration of good/beautiful is supplanted by Eve's own opinion.
- **Doing, Power and Purpose are corrupted:** Eve now wants to determine her own purpose and to have power by gaining the 'wisdom to determine good and evil.



2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

**SIN'S CORRUPTION HAS MARRED OUR
MINDS (TRUTH), OUR AFFECTIONS
(AESTHETICS) AND OUR ACTIONS (DOING).**



In the first garden, Eden, we find Adam: whose defiance to God under a tree, enslaves humanity to the curse of sin and death.



2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

ROMANS 1: OUR TRIFOLD EXCHANGE

3 EXCHANGES:

- **Verse 25** - exchange the truth for a lie
(telling | truth | content)
- **Verse 23** - exchange God's glory for images
(showing | aesthetics | form)
- **Verse 26** - exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural
(doing | power | purpose)



2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

CREATIVE IDOLATRY

(VIDEO)





2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

CREATIVE IDOLATRY

A. BECOMING ENSLAVED TO CREATIVITY'S PRODUCTION





2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

CREATIVE IDOLATRY

**A. BECOMING ENSLAVED TO CREATIVITY'S
PRODUCTION**

**B. CREATIVITY BECOMING A CREATIVE'S
FUNCTIONAL SAVIOUR**



2. SIN - CREATIVITY'S CORRUPTION

CREATIVE IDOLATRY

A. BECOMING ENSLAVED TO CREATIVITY'S
PRODUCTION

B. CREATIVITY BECOMING A CREATIVE'S
FUNCTIONAL SAVIOUR

C. CREATIVES BECOMING AUTONOMOUS ARTISTS



“There is but one good; that is God. Everything else is good when it looks to Him and bad when it turns from him.”

(C.S. Lewis)

*Your creativity, wrongly aimed,
will lead you into idolatry.*



Our sinfulness makes us mix up
representing God (imaging God) with
replacing God with our artistic endeavors.



OUR RESPONSE:

YOUR ART AND CREATIVE CALLING WILL
NOT SAVE YOU.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE AND TAKE SERIOUSLY
SIN'S EFFECTS ON OUR VISION AND
CREATIVITY.



As idolaters, we are doing one of two things:
we either ***make a god with our imaginations*** or
make ourselves gods with our imaginations.

Both of these will break our souls.



CHRIS

REDEEMED CREATIVITY

(JOHN 1)



1. THE TRUE IMAGE

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE EMBODIMENT OF
GOD'S TRIADIC GLORY.**

JOHN 1:1-3, 14, 18



EVER NOTICED?

**Christ looks, speaks and acts very much
like a creative!**

**Which makes sense, since he is the Creator
in the flesh!**

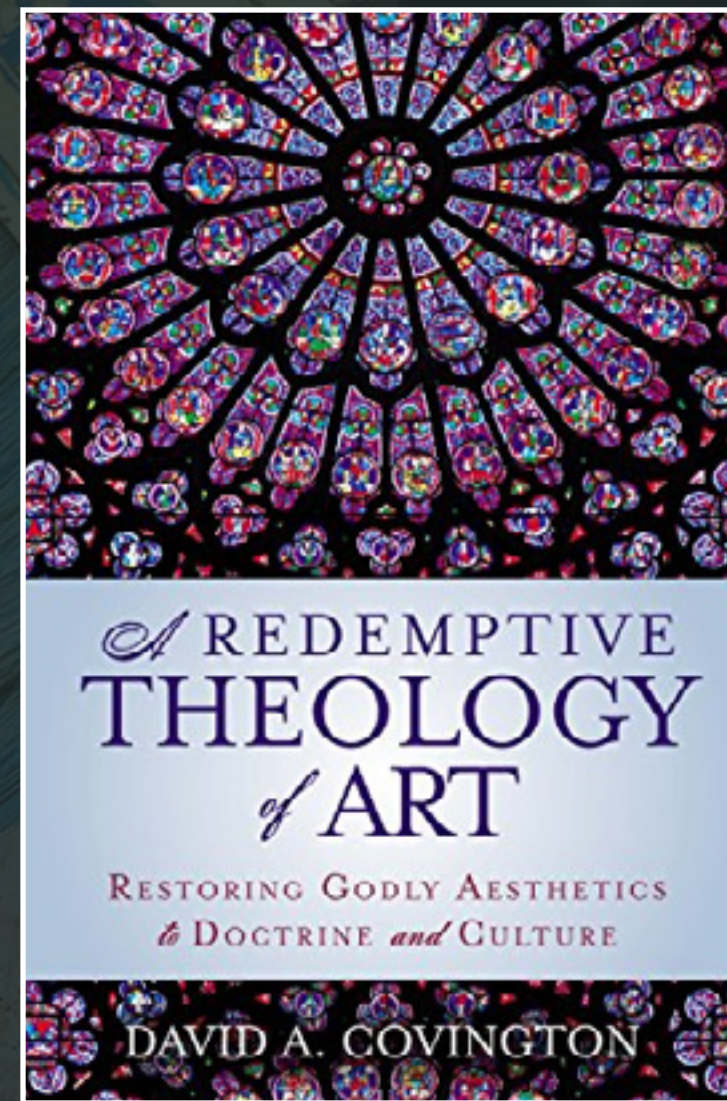
JESUS CHRIST IS THE EMBODIMENT OF GOD'S TRIADIC GLORY.

A. THE WORD OF GOD
TRUTH | CONTENT | TELLING
Jesus *tells* us the *truth* about God.

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A. THE WORD OF GOD
TRUTH | CONTENT | TELLING
Jesus tells us the truth about God.

B. THE IMAGE OF GOD
AESTHETIC | FORM | SHOWING
Jesus, God in human form, shows us the beauty of God.



“He is the one true and perfect metaphor, an analogy so true to the original that the analogy itself shares the character, the divinity of the original, the Father.”

(A Redemptive Theology of Art, 140)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE EMBODIMENT OF GOD'S TRIADIC GLORY.

A. THE WORD OF GOD

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Jesus tells us the truth about God.

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AESTHETIC | FORM | SHOWING

Jesus, God in human form, shows us the beauty of God.

B. THE POWER OF GOD

POWER | PURPOSE | DOING

Jesus is the power of God, fulfilling His purpose.



OUR RESPONSE:

LOOK TO CHRIST!

**HE CORRECTS OUR VISION AS BEING THE
PERFECT IMAGE OF GOD.**

**HE CORRECTS OUR SINFUL TRIFOLD
EXCHANGE AND FREES US FROM OUR
CREATIVE IDOLATRY.**

⊕ 2. THE TRUE SALVATION

A. CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM

A. THE SECOND ADAM (MATTHEW 4)

1. Temptation to turn stones into bread -

"good for food" - Genesis 3:6.

Defy the truth that 'man lives by God's word.'

2. Temptation of the nations' glory - the fruit

that was 'pleasing to the eye'

Self-define aesthetics & beauty.

3. Temptation of autonomous power - seeing the fruit for gaining wisdom to define good and evil for herself.

Twisted power.



In the first garden, Eden, we find **Adam**: whose **defiance** to God under a tree, **enslaves** humanity to the curse of sin and death.



In the second garden, Gethsemane, we find the **Second Adam**: Jesus Christ, whose **obedience** to God upon a Tree, **frees** humanity from the curse of sin and death.



⊕ 2. THE TRUE SALVATION

A. CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM

B. CREATIVE REDEMPTION

John 3:14-15



John 3:14-15




God gives Moses and arts and crafts project!



By looking to this visual symbol of the judgement of their sins lifted up, they would be saved.

By looking to Christ lifted up on the Cross, it brings us face to face with the judgment of our sin, and our salvation through God's judgment.



The **Gospel** is **God's glory**,
so beautiful and unexpected,
that when we **behold** it,
it captivates our hearts,
and we are ***changed*** and must ***respond***.




⊕ 2. THE TRUE SALVATION

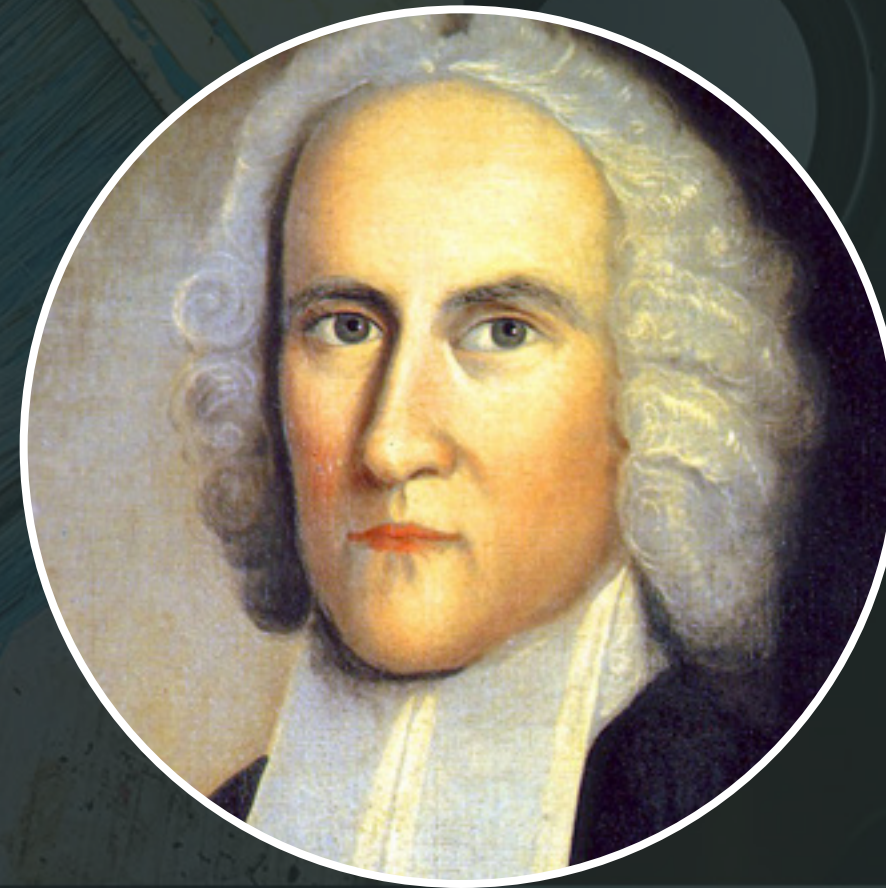
A. CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM

B. CREATIVE REDEMPTION

C. FUTURE CREATIVE RESTORATION



So, create like you're in the **new creation**.
Use your creativity to help the light of the
better world that we hope for break into the
darkness of today's world.



True religious affections are not all heat
without light...

(Jonathan Edwards - paraphrased)

⊕ 3. ART FOR GOD'S SAKE

1 PETER 4:10

"As each has ***received*** a gift, ***use it*** to ***serve one another***, as good ***stewards*** of God's varied ***grace***..."

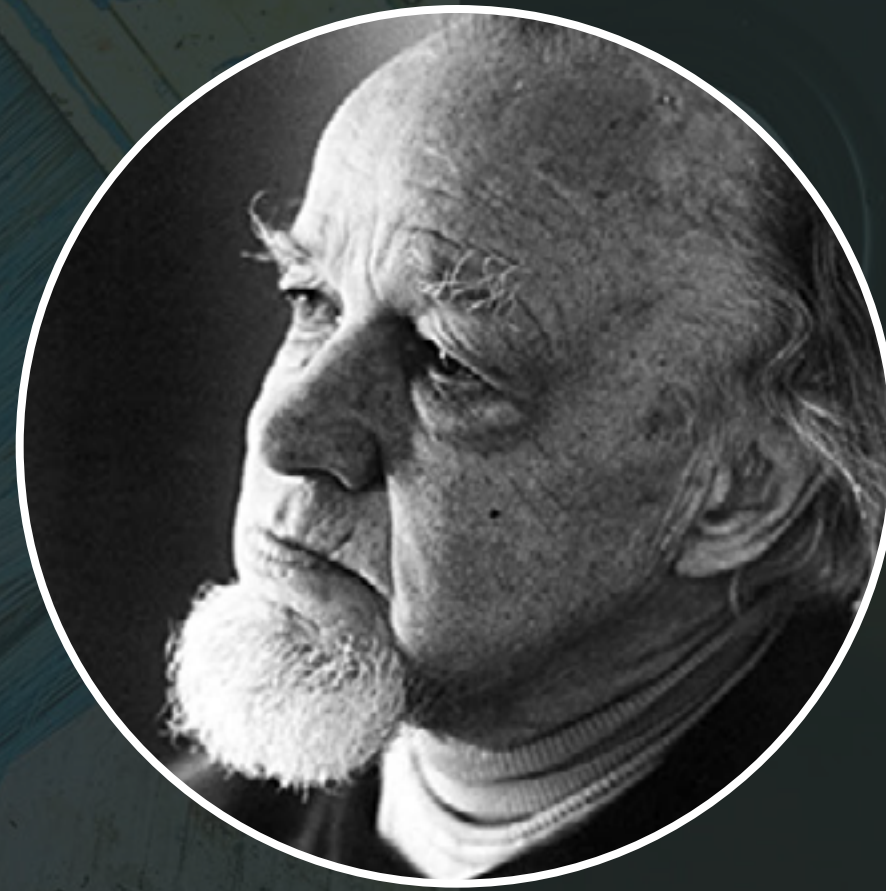


**CREATE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE
LOVE OF YOUR NEIGHBOUR.**



**CREATE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE
LOVE OF YOUR NEIGHBOUR.**

**CONSIDER: WHO IS THE PRIMARY
AUDIENCE OF OUR CREATIVITY? FOR
WHOM DO YOU CREATE?**



“A Christian should use these arts to the glory of God, not just as tracts, mind you, but as things of beauty to the praise of God.”

(Francis Schaeffer)





QA

QUESTIONS?

MANA

CREATIVES AND THEIR CREATOR

YOU ARE LOVED!