

**General Topics :: Art and the church**

**Art and the church - posted by 4everhis85, on: 2005/10/5 0:55**

Tell me what some of your thoughts are about art and the church. Like that of a ministry through the means of painting, drawing, sculpting, etc. Not just using it though as a means of evangelism, but having camps like one does for sports but for the arts (this also includes drama and music)

Do you think this has an appropriate place in the church?

What do you think of a service that would have painting, sculpting, or drama with the sermon?

What would the effects be on culture if this were to happen, reaching the people in the art world (EG. homosexuals, new agers, etc) How would this effect the modern church?

**Re: Art and the church - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/10/5 2:16**

Yes, I think the arts are a natural extension of worship, teaching, even helping to break language barriers for the Gospel.

However, Christian art should always honor God's word...

[Image: [http://employees.oneonta.edu/farberas/arth/Images/110images/sl16\\_images/Rembrandt\\_Descent.jpg](http://employees.oneonta.edu/farberas/arth/Images/110images/sl16_images/Rembrandt_Descent.jpg)]

...not cheapen it or cash in on it. [Image: <http://www.christianshirts.net/images/designs/small/kingkings150.gif>]

**Re: Art and the church - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2005/10/5 5:18**

Well having such things in our service would mean that the preaching time would get shorter. Hardly an improvement. All so I don't see the total length of services getting longer either.

Actually its more of a question if it would honour God. But I don't think its a good idea to give art a bigger place within church services.

But then again, after you have attracted people with this, then what?

If this is merely something to attract people and nothing more it would simply not add anything after. What would you teach those people?

Well we have certain 'guest-services' which do contain some drama. Depending on what that drama contains it could be good, but I don't think it could replace a good spoken message.

**Re: - posted by 4everhis85, on: 2005/10/5 13:43**

Quote:  
 -----Well having such things in our service would mean that the preaching time would get shorter. Hardly an improvement. Also I don't see the total length of services getting longer either  
 -----

Length? Just wondering where u are coming from on this. To clarify, i was intending for such things to be going on while the sermon is taking place, kinda like a dramatic reading, or performed sermon as you may call it. The pastor would still be giving his sermon as normal, but with the addition of these, not for entertainment but for further expression, comprehension and all around worship.

I don't think this is a question if it will honor God. we are to do all things for His glory and honor. And since God is the ultimate creator/artist, just look around at the things he has made, humans, things in nature, all we try to do is imitate this characteristic of God.

As an attraction, sure, art is very attractive, but isn't music a part of a lot of common services?

Quote:

-----But then again, after you have attracted people with this, then what?  
-----

warrior4jah, i'm not sure what you mean by this. Do you mean attract to the actual service that normally takes place on Sunday, or to the church in general?

I ask this c/ it is a common misconception that "church" takes place at a certain given time and place and if you're not a regular Sunday attender, then well you're not "doing" church.

But yes, an art camp would be an initial attraction to a lot of people. And hopefully it would remain as an ongoing ministry, but the attraction would be to people groups that normally wouldn't even set foot in a church, or their friends. I mean seriously, the artist community in general has typically been shunned by the church, maybe not so much shunned as neglected, how awesome would it make the artistic community know they have a place and function in the church?

I admit warrior4jah, that such things forming a more contemporary church would be hard, but it is something that needs to be looked at and its natural tendency would probably lead to a sub group in the church, a cell group if you will that would allow for these individuals to feel comfortable with others that talk and communicate like they do.

**Re: How then shall we live? - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/10/5 15:40**

4everhis85,

I personally have a deep appreciation for the arts. I believe that the best of Christian art history has enhanced my walk with Christ in deep ways. There is something you said that shed light on your frustration perhaps...

Quote:

-----how awesome would it make the artistic community know they have a place and function in the church?  
-----

It is my feeling that culture in the last 200 years in general has made a switch from aesthetic priority to economic priorities. Churches are influenced by this environment...this is not a criticism just an observation.

I personally lament this normative disregard for aesthetics in our world, because it not only devalues "artsy" things like painting, writing, music, and drama, but it also devalues human beings gifted in these areas. Creativity is one of the supreme evidences that we are not lower animals, but beings made in the image of God. Even though this is true, its sentiment seems frivolous and seems hard to appreciate by many Christians.

Theology in the last 200 years has followed closely the secular developments away from aesthetics, away from form to pure function. The finer things in the journey of life are mistrusted as "entertainment"...A work's value is often measured by statistics and spreadsheets. Our modern spirituality is a strangely pragmatic functionality devoid of the rich artistic spirituality that used to be our heritage as western Christians. This heritage may have seen its splendid peak in the works of Michaelangelo, Rembrandt, and Bach, but it had its roots in the worshipful and comforting sculptures and paintings shared between early Christians on catacomb walls.

Today, our world is different. The only Christian endeavors that seem useful are making further converts and building political influence. If art can be demonstrated to contribute to these causes, the artist community will be as welcome as the business and political communities are in the church.

Like I said, I do not think this is unique to your local church, and I don't want to hold Christians responsible for cultural norms that are beyond their control. This is just the age we live in my creative friend.

MC

**I KNEW A MAN... - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/10/5 16:47**

I knew a minister who used his paintings in the presentation of the messages ,he's at home with the Lord now. I believe that God the Holy Spirit can use all these things and they can be edifying, however if its just a program, like so many churches do (an example would be the dancing in the spirit craze that hit the charismatic church some time ago only to be followed by the Flag waving ceremonies and on it goes), after awhile it would seem that it could be nothing more than a dead work.

I personally have a great deal of appreciation for the christian arts and do believe they have a part in the church, I guess it takes those who are called to do such a ministry and not doing the ministry just for the sake of doing it. Does that make sense?

:-) Blessing Bro. Daryl

**Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2005/10/6 15:34**

Quote:

-----Length? Just wondering where u are coming from on this. To clarify, i was intending for such things to be going on while the sermon is taking place, kinda like a dramatic reading, or performed sermon as you may call it. The pastor would still be giving his sermon as normal, but with the addition of these, not for entertainment but for further expression, comprehension and all around worship.  
-----

So the other things would take place during the sermon if I understand correctly?

But how are you to teach your people then?

About the sermon (or something else) at the pulpit, that's indeed ment to honour God. (as is the rest of the entire service)

Indeed we would **not** say that we would do these things for our entertainment, but that line seems thinner then ever nowadays. I think we should be careful about this.

Perhaps a valid question we can ask ourselves is if our churches are functioning properly. (Thus honouring and exalting God)

Quote:

-----  
I don't think this is a question if it will honor God. we are to do all things for His glory and honor. And since God is the ultimate creator/artist, just look around at the things he has made, humans, things in nature, all we try to do is imitate this characteristic of God.  
-----

Well I agree that you can do all things for His glory and honor with the exception of sin.

-----  
As an attraction, sure, art is very attracting, but isn't music a part of alot of common services?  
-----

Music is part of a common service. I have to say that I'm very fond of music myself, especially praise music. Even tho the goal of such music is not to primarily entertain or enjoy ourselves but to honour God.

Quote:

warrior4jah, i'm not sure what you mean by this. Do you mean attract to the actual service that normally takes place on Sunday, or to the church in general?

I ask this c/ it is a common misconception that "church" takes place at a certain given time and place and if your not a regular Sunday attender, then well your not "doing" church.

Well doing 'church' has absolutely no value in itself. Especially if you just go to church for the social aspect of it or because of the good music, etc. I think some people can honor God by singing a certain song while another won't honor God by doing the same.

Quote:

But yes, a art camp would be an initial attraction to a lot of people. And hopefully it would remain as an ongoing ministry, but the attraction would be to people groups that normally wouldn't even set foot in a church, or their friends.. I mean seriously, the artist community in general has typically been shunned by the church, maybe not so much shunned as neglected, how awesome would it make the artistic community know they have a place and function in the church?

Well having a camp is not a bad idea. Furthermore, if someone has been convinced of Gods existence and sin he/she will go to a church anyhow regarding if the person is artistic or not.

Quote:

I admit warrior4jah, that such things form a more contemporary church would be hard, but it is something that needs to be looked at and its natural tendency would probably lead to a sub group in the church, a cell group if you will that would allow for these individuals to feel comfortable with others that talk and communicate like they do.

Well I just have the idea that even though a great concept at first glance it could drift off to something ugly. Then again that purely depends on how the people in the church are with God. I would rather see that there will be more Bible studies and such in my church.. perhaps after the service so you can talk about it with each other or.. something like that.

#### **Re: Art and the church - posted by ruhappy, on: 2005/10/6 15:44**

everything added to the church that gives glory to the man is taking away from the purpose we meet for. then someone always has to put it to the test and see how far they can take it. I have seen it happen with dance. see how worldly it can be and still be called holy. and people just sit there and take it like stupid sheep!

#### **Re: - posted by 4everhis85, on: 2005/10/11 1:43**

I do agree that this whole thing can be taken way too far but anything has that potential, I mean heck, just look at preaching, so I don't find that as being viable. but I do think that having something like the service I described would be distracting to a good number of people, myself included, and it does show the greatest potential for becoming something that it isn't like dance. I just read about a couple churches in a magazine called, Omission, that do things like this. BUT! I do think that art has a huge place in the church! It is such a huge evangelistic tool and despite what warrior,... whatever said (sorry about that!) it is a huge thing for an artist to feel like they can go to a place that has this community, along with good biblical teaching! But ya gotta understand warrior, artists aren't like a lot of people, we communicate differently, worship differently, read and think in an abnormal fashion, and usually we have to suppress ourselves and don't feel like we can be ourselves in the church community, c/ no one really does get us, just other artist. So an art ministry would create a fellowship for this people group! Something that would be HUGE! I can testify to having such a group, I go to Moody Bible Institute and we have an Art club! WE get together and just create, fellowship, and I do mean fellowship, c/ ya see, when ya do art or are working on a piece it is VERY personal and true fellowship takes place as we edify each other and see what biblical principals are on each others minds or what things we are struggling with c/ it all reflects in what we create!!!! So forget the service, although it can be integrated in there, but just not on the levels I brought up. What do you all think can be done or how this should look?

**Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/10/11 7:48**

If I may make one comment on your post please?

Jam 1:5 and if any of you do lack wisdom, let him ask from God, who is giving to all liberally, and not reproaching, and it shall be given to him; (young's translations)

And we know that wisdom is the proper application of knowledge. There is no "sub-group" in the body of Christ. If those predisposed toward the arts in their expression of faith, in praise and worship as well as the delivery of God's Word, separate themselves from the body, that's sin. The Body of Christ isn't supposed to have separate little groupings but we're to be one Body of believers working to glorify Christ and obey His teachings.

The wisdom is needed because artists have to come to the same knowledge that all Christians have to come to, and that is, Everything we are started with Christ and will end with Christ, ALL GRACE, nothing of myself I bring. That's why talented people must be "ALL" the more careful to seek "Wisdom" from God so as to not be executing their service as "DEAD WORKS" in the sight of God. There is a way that seems right in the sight of man.....

I do enjoy the arts, however those who do these types of ministries need to have wisdom from above to do them. In The Body of Christ, one body many members, and not apart from the Body of Christ, Let all things be done to edify. :-)  
God Bless Bro. Daryl

**Re: - posted by 4everhis85, on: 2005/10/11 15:24**

Quote:  
-----There is no "sub-group" in the body of Christ. If those predisposed toward the arts in their expression of faith, in praise and worship as well as the delivery of God's Word, separate themselves from the body, that's sin. The Body of Christ isn't supposed to have separate little groupings but we're to be one Body of believers working to glorify Christ and obey His teachings.  
-----

I am in total agreement with you. But this wouldn't be a "sub-group" as you put it. Many churches have youth groups, college and careers groups, singles, elders, etc. all these are designed to bring the body together in a manner that makes people relate easily with one another. And an "art-group" would just be another ministry group, that doesn't have age separations, which is the most common sub-group!

Thank you so much dohzman for pointing out the necessity of wisdom! That definitely can not be overly stressed, especially in the setting of artist!

Quote:  
-----The wisdom is needed because artists have to come to the same knowledge that all Christians have to come to, and that is, Everything we are started with Christ and will end with Christ, ALL GRACE, nothing of myself I bring.  
-----

Speaking for myself I know that every piece of my work is a direct stem from the Lord, and it is because of His Grace that I can do anything! I know there is not one piece of work that was not from Him for a given purpose or heart ache, or just worship of who He is!

In what you said it sounded as if you were attacking artist and saying they are full of arrogance in their work, this simply is not so! In fact I know the opposite to be the truth (as a person who is actually in this world). We create art that is our form of communication, it reflects us in every single aspect from extreme highs to the lows.

I do appreciate your warning of wisdom, but don't direct to just artists, this goes to any type of ministry, pride comes in so easily along with other snares! The preacher needs to be careful he isn't out to please the ears of his audience and to impress them with words. The musician has to do the same! The warning needs to be to everyone! but at the same time let's remember that God did make us different with talents and skills, which all should go to His Glory and praise along with the edification of the church!

yes an actual art ministry in a church is abstract, but music was at one point too! Before we continue to look at this let's take our stereotypes and presuppositions and look critically at them! Because some of you who look at this post are not in the art world and would only have ideas of what it looks like from the world's standpoint because that is all you are fed! But historically art wasn't how it is now, and the Christian look is so different than many of you know! Please, just really think about this and its possibilities before making applying negative connotations with this! Let us assume that if this mi

nistry were to ever take place in an area that the leaders would be grounded well in His Word and right doctrine and the ology and not go along with the idea that it would just be the sterotype artist club.

**Re: - posted by 4everhis85, on: 2005/10/11 15:25**

i just want to bring attention to Compton's post! Thank you!

**Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/10/11 15:54**

Quote:  
-----artists arn't like a lot of people, we communicate differently, worship differently, read and think in an abnormal fashion, and usually we have to suppress ourselves and don't feel like we can be ourselves in the church community, c/ no one really does get us, just other artist.  
-----

Here's what I was keying in on when I made the statement about seperation but since you made the above comment:

Quote:  
-----Many churches have youth groups, college and carreers groups, singles, elders, etc. all these are designed to bring the body togeth er in a manner that makes people relate easily with one another.  
-----

Makes sense :-) and you're right.

Quote:  
-----I do appreciate your warning of wisdom, but don't direct to just artists, this goes to any type of ministry, pride comes in so easily along with other snares! The preacher needs to be careful he isn't out to please the ears of his audience and to impress them with words. The musicain has to do the same! The warning needs to be to everyone! but at the same time lets remember that God did make us different with talents and skills, which all should go to His Glory and praise along with the edification of the church!  
-----

I agree with that, especially preachers.

**Learning to appreciate good art and other creative abilities - posted by roadsign (), on: 2005/10/11 18:25**

Quote:  
----- everything added to the church that gives glory to the man is taking away from the purpose we meet for.  
-----

So true! This could be said of the building as a whole, or the entire institution we call church. But then, anything can be an idol to anyone. Even a preacher can become an idol. It all depends on the place it has in the heart. Should we ban everything that could potentially become idolatrous?

I am a musician and I find that a large percentage of comments about music that are made by non-musicians, or those who THINK they are musicians. I believe that the same goes for art. Those who are not artists will always be limited in their understanding of art – and its value in our society, including our religious institutions.

We need to learn how to appreciate art – and see the implications of the imagery, the use of color, texture, etc etc. I spent several hours at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam a few years ago, and as a result my understanding of art rose tremendously. I didn't know what I didn't know about art.

Throughout the centuries the church has been brutal towards art, music, and other forms of creative expression. There has been an obsessive fear that these might become idolatrous, worldly, or evil. For example: Certain musical intervals were thought to be evil. Instruments such as violins in church were thought to be of the devil. I'm glad Bach, Handel, and others did not submit to the church's unreasonable controls in these areas. But they suffered as a result, but all of us have benefited, even if we don't know anything about music.

As far as taste, the illustrations shown in an earlier post reveal that there is such a thing as good art and tasteless com

mercial art - just like there is good and bad music. There is art that stands the tests of time, and then there is art that is attractive only to our own culture and generation. It merely sells something, or it fits into the color scheme of our home d  
Â©cor. In the same way there is timeless music that has been appreciated across generations and cultures - and then t  
here is commercial music that is here today, gone tomorrow.

There is also the consideration of quality. IÂ’ve seen great music and great drama performed sloppily Â– behind the flim  
sy excuse, Â“WeÂ’re just doing it for God.Â” I wonder, do they think that God has the intelligence of a toddler. What an i  
nsult to God.

It is not an issue of art in the church or no art in the church. It is an issue of moving from mediocrity to excellence. Woul  
dnÂ’t it be awesome if we could learn how to value and display great art - painting, sculpture, photography etc in our ch  
urches. WouldnÂ’t it be great if we could recognize good artists within our churches and make appropriate use of their w  
ork. WouldnÂ’t it be awesome if we could present some of the finest music that has been written in past centuries witho  
ut limiting it to the latest Â– here today, gone tomorrow commercial trends performed by unskilled people.

WouldnÂ’t it be great if we could learn how to value excellent literary work, and appreciate the fine crafting of good sente  
nces Â– even in a sermon.

WouldnÂ’t it be great if more would take the tremendous sacrifice of self-discipline, time, and training that goes behind th  
ese creative abilities.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

**Re: Learning to appreciate good art and other creative abilities - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/10/11 19:44**

I will make this comment about certain types of art, like paintings (for example). There are people who will go to see an e  
xpose! on certain art forms that will never go to a church , so the expression of Christ accurately in those art forms is a v  
ery nessary tool in which the Lord has used and still does use for His glory. That can never be discounted!

**Re: Learning to appreciate good art and other creative abilities - posted by 4everhis85, on: 2005/10/11 23:41**

AMEN! man AMEN!  
so awesome roadsighn! i really appreciate your wisdom and insight!  
just made me smile to read your post!

Quality effects so much and the church needs to realize that, yes God is our audience, so we should do our ABSOLUTE  
BEST!!!, this in film, music art ANYTHING! ah, thanks again!

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2005/10/13 22:29**

Quote:  
-----There are people who will go to see an expose' on certain art forms that will never go to a church  
-----  
This is true of all kinds of creative expression. You find God in great music, literature, art, etc - all which never seems to f  
ind its way into the church. If anyone is truly searching for God, God can speak through man's creativity outside of the ch  
urch just as much as inside.

This post seems to deal with the concern about bringing art INTO the church. I have never been able to understand why  
it may be okay to enjoy art in an art gallery, but not in a church.

It seems like we separate God out from the world and leave him only in the church. We separate our Sunday church live  
s from our every day lives.

Regarding music I have said, "If it shouldn't be in the church, it shouldn't be in our lives at all." Well, that may be an over  
statement, but the idea is there.

If art becomes an idol to us, it will do that just as much outside the church as inside the church.

**Re: Art and the church - posted by beenblake (), on: 2005/10/14 9:29**

Dear 4everhis85,

I haven't read through the other posts, so I may repeat what other's have said.

Let me start off with telling a little of my background. I painted my first painting at age 3. My mother wanted me to become an artist. She loved art. I started taking art classes at the art museum at age 5. My entire life has been involved with or wrapped in art of some form or another, from painting to drawing to photography to digital art.

When I was saved at age 26, I gave up chasing fine art as a career. After graduating with a BFA, I was disgusted with the "Art World" and its selfish philosophical pursuits. This is not to say that I don't do artistic things on occasion, however, I do not seek to express myself.

One of the greatest lessons I am learning as a Christian is how to communicate with others and share with them. My entire life has been centered on art. Thus, art was my way of communicating. However, I have found it largely problematic for many reasons. The most obvious is love. How can you love a person when you are disconnected from them?

To explain this, let me first give an art history lesson. Art spawned from idol worship. The first traces of art that we have are of carved images of idols. I am sure this is quite obvious when looking at early art history. One of the most artistic early cultures were the Egyptians, and look at the abundant idoltry.

One of the things that art does is that it carries information through time. We know about the Egyptians and their culture from the art they created. They have been immortalized by their art. Other early civilizations have long been forgotten and left unknown because a lack of art.

Fast forward to early Christianity. From what I was taught in my art history courses, early Christians believed that it was wrong to make art of any kind. Thus, there is very little art from the early Church. If they did make carvings, they did so in a cartoonish way as not to mimic nature too realistically.

This mentality carried on through the Church for nearly a 1000 years during a time we call the "Dark Ages." This period is referred to as the "Dark Ages" not because it was dark, but because the only art that was produced was the bible. We have little to know record of history from this time period. Thus, it is like a dark gap in the history timeline.

All the art of this time was typically handwritten copies of the bible. Scribes devoted their lives to this one purpose. Drawings were added to the pages, however, the drawings were kept cartoonish and never life-like.

This changed during the renaissance period when artists started making things look more realistic. They were copying the style of the early Greeks and Romans, influenced by the sculptures of the Greek and Roman period.

As many know, this time created many famous artists that are now immortalized such as Leonardo Divinci and Michael Angelo.

Fast forward again. We come to early America and the Puritans. Early America was greatly influenced by the Puritans and their beliefs. The Puritans believed as the early Church, and did not believe in making any graven image of any kind. They did not create "Christian Art." Whenever anything was crafted, such as a table or a chair, it was always done very simplistic, not bringing any attention to the object. They veered away from decoration.

Thus, early America did not have an identity in the "Art World" and it would not until Jackson Pollock in the 1950's. Because of early Puritan influence, the American style is based more upon functionality rather than beauty. For instance, we like big bulky comfortable sofas, while the Europeans have more elegant and refined furniture.

I have fallen a little off track. Art from the "Dark Ages" was about communication. Most people during that time could not read. So, when they wrote out the bible they included little cartoons to show visually what the bible was talking about. This carried through of course through the renaissance. Many European Churches, sculptures and paintings, have been created to communicate the gospel to people who could not read.

However, art became more and more about beauty as artists mimic Greek and Roman sculpture. They also started promoting their own personal ideas in their art by creating highly stylized art. This style and beauty effect later led to the Impressionist movement.

pressionist and Expressionist artists such as Van Gogh.

In this modern era that we live, art has many different functions and purposes. The most common is entertainment, although many artists will deny entertainment is art. Movies and video games are just as much art as a painting or drawing. It is just a different medium.

Some other modern purposes: communication, aesthetic appreciation, decoration, education, expression, therapy....there are probably many more.

The big one that has invaded American culture is personal expression. This is the one that bothers me most. Every artist has an opinion about life and the world, and they think or feel their message is some sort of personal gospel which needs to be spread to the world. Art has become deeply personal. By this, people seek to glorify themselves. "Look at my art! Look at how good it is!! Look at how good I am!! Worship me!!"

This is very dangerous. Many artists are very self-righteous people. I can't stand them really.

And yet, I am an artist. Praise be to the Lord who saved me from self-righteousness and has humbled me under His feet.

Next question: Can art glorify God? Musicians do it all the time, so I think art can do it too.

Going back to the question of love. Art is a medium of communication. It is the in between. Let's say I have something to tell you. I make a painting and mail it to you. Then you look at it and try to determine my message.

The problem is this, art is impersonal. Rather than come visit you in person and give you the message with the love of my presence, I have given you an impersonal piece of art. While it may communicate the message, it does not give you me.

When I love someone, I give myself to them. Instead of giving you me, I have given you a work of art. This object has become between us.

After spending an entire lifetime trying to give my love to others through art, I am trying to learn now for the first time how to love people in person. I am not hiding behind a camera anymore. (Laugh at the irony as I post this on a message board.) I am not looking at a person as an object, a thing that I am trying to draw.

Rather, I am involved in a Church confronted with real people who have more needs than to hear a silly message. Often times, they need not be told anything. All they need is a big hug. Art cannot give hugs.

Should Art be used in ministry?

Art fails at communicating often times because it leaves for too much interpretation. Art is subjective. When you are trying to deliver a clear message such as a sermon, it fails. However, art does give people an experience. This is something a sermon cannot deliver.

This is what I think.....

Art should always be used to glorify God. We should never seek after our own good, our own glory, or our own benefit. It brings God glory when we love others. We should create art as a gift for others, not expressing ourselves, but expressing God. This means we are not seeking our own glory, but the glory of God by giving to others His love.

Art is a tool. This means that it aids us. However, every tool needs a good worker. Art should never be used as the primary thing by which to deliver a message or the primary thing to lead someone to Christ.

How can a tool work without a hand holding it? If someone creates a website, or a movie, or a painting or anything else, and expects that people are going to know Christ because of it, they are foolish. These things are tools to help you in ministry. This means, we need to love people in addition to these tools. Don't just give a movie to someone and tell them to watch it. Watch the movie with them and talk about it.

**General Topics :: Art and the church**

I guess I fear art used in ministry because many people are replacing love with art. And this is not good. Art can be used to enhance ministry efforts, but it should never replace love that comes from giving people our time, our presence, our being.

Lastly, art is the product of death. Throughout history, people have created art to immortalize themselves. Art carries a message to exist when the artist is gone. When the time comes that we live forever, we will no longer create art. Why would we? We will be too busy trying to live and play with God and each other. We will all be united as one.

I do believe that God instilled in all of us a desire to create. We are children of God. God is a creator. And I do believe in Heaven we will also create things. However, it won't be art. It will be something else that we can not yet imagine.

Anyway, those are some of my thoughts on the subject. As scattered as they may be.

I hope this helps.

In love,  
Blake