

Calling and the Creative Person

"So God created people in his own Image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them." - Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

God is constantly creating, in us, through us, with us, and to co-create with God is our human calling. It is the calling for all of us. - Madeleine L'Engle

1. How have you seen the 'creator' facet of God's Image In others? in yourself? (or 1. Do you think everyone is called to be a creator? why or why not?)

To create suggests making something out of nothing the way a man makes a painting or poems. It is true that the artist, like the carpenter, has to use something else—paint, words—but the beauty or meaning he makes is different from the material he makes it out of. To create is to make something essentially new. - Frederick Beuchner

Unless we are creators, we are not fully alive - Madeleine L'Engle

2. Why do you think God calls us to be creators?

"The LORD also said to Moses... 'I have given special skill to all the naturally talented craftsmen so they can make all the things I have instructed you to make: the Tabernacle itself; the Ark of the Covenant, the Ark's cover...' - Exodus 31:6-7

It was God's idea to provide art for His people and God saw art as a normal, integral part of Israel's religious and cultural life. In other words, some of God's people were gifted, called, or "assigned" by Him to serve with their creative abilities in the production of art. Some of it, indeed, was even figurative and abstract! - R. Wesley Hurd

3. Beyond the general human calling to be co-creators, God specifically calls and gifts some to be artists. How do you feel about the legitimacy of this calling? (or What is your perception of how the church/society views this calling?)

Music is one of the reasons I believe I have a soul. The physical description of varying frequencies vibrating the membranes of my inner ear cannot begin to explain the way music makes me feel. - Josh Reitz

We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering - these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love - these are what we stay alive for. - John Keating Dead Poets Society

4. What do you think is the point of the artistic calling?

It is within art forms—visual, textual, auditory—that imago dei (image of God) attempts to articulate in lucid intensity and special language its encounter with fallen creation and the mysteries of existence. In this, serious art distinguishes itself from the trivial and the opportunistic. - George Steiner

Creativeness is the expression of man's true vocation, but creativeness is distorted and debased by sin. Hence the ethics of creativeness deal with the agonizing struggle of the human spirit. - Nikolai Berdyaev

5. How would the Idea that your art is a divine calling cause you approach It differently from an unbeliever in the same Industry? How is it easier or harder?

We are afraid of that which we cannot control; so we continue to draw in the boundaries around us, to limit ourselves to what we can know and understand. Thus we lose our human calling because we do not dare to be creators, co-creators with God. - Madeleine L'Engle

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." - 2 Timothy 1:7

6. How do fear and uncertainty hinder you from living out your calling as creator?

Serious art made by serious Christians makes a valid and important contribution to the church's presence in this yet unredeemed world. - R. Wesley Hurd

Christian art? Art is art; painting is painting; music is music; a story is a story. If it's bad art, it's bad religion, no matter how pious the subject. - Madeleine L'Engle

7. Why Is It Important for Christian artists to give themselves fully to their artistic calling?

Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.

The Haven mission statement is:

To empower artists to influence the culture for Christ.