

Creativity for all.

By Patricia MacEachern 2014

God's Creative Character:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

This is a very familiar verse from the Bible but when was the last time we stopped to think about what that means. From a formless and empty darkness, to all that we see and know and are still discovering today, He created the vastness of space and the details of the flowers.



We are made in God's Image

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

Us as Creators

From these verses we understand that because God is God the creator and we are made in His image, it would mean that we are creative also. For some of us creative arts are close to home because we are by nature creative people. Being created in God's image would make perfect sense in this situation. "But I am not practically creative," I hear some of you say, "and creative arts may be for others but it is not for us".

Let me tell you about an interesting podcast I listened to recently on the subject of Creative Arts. The pastor started off cooking scrambled eggs on stage.



He explained to his congregation that there are two parts to a meal. There is the cooking of the food and then there is the eating of the meal.

Not everyone likes to cook but everyone has to eat. He said that creative arts are the same. We may not all like to create but we are all made to experience creation.

Let us think of creative arts as more than just painting, music, dancing and so on. Let's go back to Genesis 1:27 where we are created in God's image. Looking at the human heart, mind, culture and society, there is a definitive difference between us and the rest of the created order. Humans have a desire for order, an appreciation of beauty, a desire to collaborate, and can have a deep emotional response to an experience. There is something in each of us that responds to beauty.



Studies showed that the grey, drab and functional architecture in communist countries, as well as the stripping away of peoples creativity and ability to be individual, had dehumanising effects on the people.

Therefore, even if we are not creative in an artistic sense, something deep within us needs to experience beauty.



If we look at or experience something we think of as beautiful we find God is revealing himself to us in the symmetry and harmony, the colours and movement and the fluid lines. There is a joy that comes from this.

He made and he enjoyed His creation. "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Gen 1:31a

When we think of creative arts as more than just what we see or read or hear, we find that each of us has a creative part.

For some of us this may take a more practical form in having a desire to play music, sing, paint, dance, knit, sew, write or garden. Woodwork, pottery, photography, even making sandcastles on the beach may be more our thing. We may choose to invest ourselves in rearing our children or helping people. For others of us it may be the experience of watching these activities or admiring the created pieces. As we cultivate that part of us we bring Glory to God.



Creative arts is like a bucket in a well, drawing out that worship within us , but also to pour back into us the living waters from a God who loves us and gives us such things to experience Him. When we are hit by the chorus of a song, engaged by a dance that we see or are captured by a painting we are looking at, God, in that moment is pouring into us that we might overflow with worship and joy to Him.



We can show our worship to God in our creativity but it also allows God to stir our hearts and awaken something deep within us. We need to come with an attitude of quietness before God. Let us still ourselves and remember that we are human “beings” and not human “doings”. Let God meet us in that deep creative place within us.

Prayer: Lord God, we praise and worship you. You are God of order and beauty and creative life. We thank You that You have made us in Your image but have made each of us unique so as to express and experience that creativity in different ways. May we be drawn closer to you as we seek not just to get the job done, but to find the beauty, order and harmony in all around us. Help us to overflow in our worship to you through our own creativity or the creativity of others. In Jesus name. Amen