ART & CULTURE FACT SHEET

KEY VERSES:

Exodus 35:30–35   Ephesians 5:19
Colossians 3:16   Philippians 4:8

KEY PUBLICATIONS:

Books and Culture | www.christianitytoday.com |

Plugged In | www.pluggedinonline.com |

KEY QUOTES:

"Art worthy of a Christian is defined by skilled human creativity that reflects God's truth or God's beauty."[1]

"Ironically, the ability to say that a work of art can be aesthetically good, but false in the worldview it assumes provides an opportunity for the cultivation of moral capacities that popular culture cannot offer."[2]

"The best way to overcome banality is to demand something better—to seek out, as Paul wrote in Philippians, whatever is noble, right, pure, admirable, and to 'think on these things.
Paul is commanding us to discipline ourselves to reflect on excellence. And he doesn't limit that to spiritual things, either. The command applies to everything—the music we listen to, the books and magazines we read, the films we watch."[3]

"Issues of quality and standards have been foolishly abandoned by liberals, who now interpret aesthetics as nothing but a mask for ideology. As a result the far right has gained enormously. What madness is abroad in the land when only neoconservatives will defend the grandeur of art?
This does not mean that Christianity can be successfully expressed in every style. Some styles are wholly interwoven with aberrant philosophies (indeed, such styles are often nothing more than philosophical statements, which is why they are so bad aesthetically). Sometimes, Christians follow a particular style uncritically without recognizing the implicit contradictions between their faith and the style they are using to express it. Such incompatibility between form and content results in bad Christian art. (Late Victorian sentimentality, heavy metal nihilism, and pop culture consumerism would not seem to accord with a Biblical sensibility, but such misbegotten hybrids fill the Christian bookstores.)"[4]

KEY SOURCES: **Online Articles**: http://www.summit.org/resources/essays/

Art

Brand, Hilary, and Adrienne Chaplin. *Art and Soul: Signposts for Christians in the Arts*. 2nd ed. Carlisle, CA: Piquant, 2001.

Rookmaker, H.R. *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture*. Westester, IL: Crossway, 1994.

Ryken, Leland. "The Creative Arts." In *The Making of a Christian Mind: A Christian World View and the Academic Enterprise*, edited by Arthur Frank Holmes, 105–31. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1985.

———. *The Liberated Imagination: Thinking Christianly About the Arts*. Wheaton, IL: Shaw, 1989.

———. "The Paradisal Imagination." *Christianity and the Arts* 4 (1997): 6–10.

Ryken, Philip Graham. *Art for God's Sake: A Call to Recover the Arts*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006.

---

[1] J.F. Baldwin, Summit Ministries Open Forum, July 12, 1994.
[2] Kenneth Myers, *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes,* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1990) p. 98.
[3] Chuck Colson, "Elvis Mania," *Breakpoint with Chuck Colson,* June 1993,p. 17.
[4] Gene Edward Veith, *State of the Arts: From Bezalel to Mapplethorpe*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991) p. 165.

Schaeffer, Francis A. *Art and the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973.

Turner, Steve. "Being There: A Vision for Christianity and the Arts." *Trinity Seminary Review* 21 (1999): 25–33.

Veith, Gene Edward. "Christianity and Culture: God's Double Sovereignty." *Modern Reformation* 6, no. 1 (1997).

———. "Must Art Be 'Christian' To Be Good." *Christianity Today*, February 1984, 69.

———. "A New Creative Force." *Christianity and the Arts* 4 (1997): 37,39–40.

———. *Reading between the Lines: A Christian Guide to Literature* Turning Point Christian Worldview Series. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1990.

———. *State of the Arts: From Bezalel to Mapplethorpe*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991.

Culture

Barzun, Jacques. *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life: 1500 to the Present*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2000.

DeMoss, Robert G. *Learn to Discern*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.

Eliot, T.S. *Christianity and Culture: The Idea of a Christian Society and Notes Towards the Definition of Culture*. New York, NY: Harcourt, 1960.

Ferguson, Everett. *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Hayes, Edward. *The Church: The Body of Christ in the World of Today*. Edited by Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll Leadership Library*. Nashville, TN: Word, 1999.

Lewis, C.S. *The Abolition of Man*. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Medved, Michael. *Hollywood Vs. America: Popular Culture and the War on Traditional Values*. New York, NY; Grand Rapids, MI: HarperCollins; Zondervan, 1992.

Myers, Ken. "Is Popular Culture Either?" *Modern Reformation* 6, no. 1 (1997).

Minnery, Tom. *Why You Can't Stay Silent: A Biblical Mandate to Shape Our Culture*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2001.

Myers, Ken. *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians and Popular Culture*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1989.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.

Postman, Neil. *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology*. New York, NY: Vintage, 1993.

Romanowski, William. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Rev. and expanded ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2007.

Rookmaker, H.R. *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture*. Westester, IL: Crossway, 1994.

Schaeffer, Francis. *A Christian View of Philosophy and Culture*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1982.

Education

Black, Jim. *Freefall of the American University: How Our Colleges Are Corrupting the Minds and Morals of the Next Generation.* Nashville, TN: WND, 2004.

Budziszewski, J. *How to Stay Christian in College*. Colorado Springs, CO: THINK, 2004.

D'Souza, Dinesh. *Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race and Sex on Campus*. New York, NY; Toronto, CAN: Free; Collier Macmillan Canada; Maxwell Macmillan International, 1991.

Kilpatrick, William. *Why Johnny Can't Tell Right from Wrong*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Shortt, Bruce. *The Harsh Truth About Public Schools*. Vallecito, CA: Chalcedon Foundation, 2004.

Sowell, Thomas. *Inside American Education: The Decline, the Deception, the Dogmas*. New York, NY; Toronto, CAN: Free Press; Maxwell Macmillan Canada; Maxwell Macmillan International, 1992.

Shapiro, Ben. *Brainwashed: How Universities Indoctrinate America's Youth*. Nashville, TN: WND, 2004.

Stormer, John. *None Dare Call It Education*. Florissant, MO: Liberty Bell, 1998.

Entertainment

Gabler, Neal. *Live the Movie: How Entertainment Conquered Reality*. New York, NY: Knopf, 1998.

Godawa, Brian. *Hollywood Worldviews: Watching Films with Wisdom and Discernment*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. New York, NY: Viking, 1985.