

Lecture 17: The Christian & Modern Art (Part 2)

Review and Introduction: As a supplement to the previous lecture on Dr. Schaeffer's article "The Christian and Modern Art," Professor Barrs answers questions related to the issues raised in the article and to the whole issue of Christians and artistic creativity in our day.

The Christian & Modern Art (Part 2)

I. Awareness of Our Culture

- A. We do not have to think in order to be shaped by the culture
- B. We ought to reflect on how we are shaped (Romans 12:1-2; Corinthians 10:5)

II. Modern Artists Consciously Communicate Their Views

- A. Gauguin—"The Noble Savage"
- B. John Cage
- C. Sylvia Plath

III. The Christian's Role in the Arts

- A. We must be aware of what art communicates in our day
- B. We must be aware of how that message is communicated
 - 1. Integrity of message and form
 - 2. We cannot copy
 - 3. We must be more creative

C. Two mistakes

- 1. Producing only the explicitly Christian
- 2. Failing to recognize what modern art says—we cannot copy it
- 3. Dr. Hans Rookmaaker's works

IV. Art in the 20th Century

- A. When told interpretation is a matter of response, which means there is no objective communication
- B. Christians do not accept a total subjectivism that denies real communication
- C. Modern art in tension

V. World View and Cultural Development

- A. Holland
- B. India
- C. Africa
- D. Reformed Northern Europe
- E. Hinduism
- F. The flow of artistic works reveals a pattern
- G. Danger: Retreat from the culture to develop our own forms which communicate to no one
- H. Must use today's forms in a creative way; not a poor copy
- I. Point out the tensions
- J. We should be so shaped by the way we as Christians see the world that it will affect even unconsciously the way we do things