

# SEEING GOD AS HE IS

## LESSON 13: A GOD OF CREATIVITY

### I. Creativity is part of the essential nature of God

#### A. Vocabulary:

1. In the OT: "*bara*" (Hb.) – to shape or create, as in objects, new conditions and circumstances, or transformations, or even reference to birth (see Gen. 1:1)

2. In the NT: "*poiein*"(Gk) – to make, specifically to create poetry; a later term exists which is more encompassing, "*meraki*" (Gk.) - to do something with soul, creativity, or love; to put something of yourself in your work.

**B.** What does the Bible say about creativity? The very first verse of Scripture actually describes the ultimate creative act as "God created the heavens and the earth." Additionally, Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in his own image." This should confirm we have also been given God's creative spirit. In His wisdom, God gave us the ability to think creatively and synthesize new ideas to help us negotiate our journey through this life. A spirit of creativity is the essence of God and inevitably the nature of man as well. Further, as we are all different physically and mentally, we also all have a different sense of creativity

**C. Why** has God made us with a creative nature, and how are we to use it? If we try to answer that question with only ourselves in mind, we ultimately give in to our selfish nature and fall into sin; if we first look to God to answer it, we see that our creativity is reframed in terms of opportunities for love and service to God and our fellow man (Luke 10:27)

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**D.** Creativity is *not* selfish by nature. One of Satan's greatest deceptions is that creative freedom means doing whatever we want, whenever we want, to serve only our personal desires – free of discipline, obedience, and submission to God; in reality, creative freedom is *not* just about doing whatever we want to please ourselves, but more about wanting to do what God has *made* us to do – using our unique talents to further the gospel

1. We must remember that Satan is *very* creative & persistent, and uses his “talents” to separate us from God and destroy us spiritually (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:11; John 8:44; 2 Cor. 2:11; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8)

2. Romans 1:18-32 is a perfect commentary on mankind using its creativity to seek and serve its own pleasures at the “expense” of God's creativity to seek and serve man's opportunity for salvation

3. Like all our other blessings, we will all be held accountable for the stewardship of our creative natures

**E.** Our creativity is ultimately intended to be an instrument of *worship* (Rom.12:1-2); we can use our abilities and resourcefulness to bring glory to God and bring joy and goodness to the world.

### **II. Scriptures to consider:**

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

**Genesis 1:26-27** - Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;

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male and female he created them.

**Psalm 139:13-14** – For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

**Jeremiah 10:12** - But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

**Psalms 104:24** - How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures

**Romans 1:20** - For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**Ephesians 2:10** - For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Romans 12:2** - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Colossians 3:23** - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters

**Romans 12:6** - We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith...

**1 Timothy 4:14** - Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

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**Exodus 31:1-6** - Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also, I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you

**Exodus 35:31-32** - and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze...

**Exodus 35:35** - He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

**Proverbs 22:29** - Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.

## III. Understanding our creativity

### A. We are *all* born with a creative nature

1. Some have *artistic* creativity – for creating visual art, for auditory art / music ability (writing, performance, etc.), for design (clothing, architecture, furniture, etc.), for poetry, and for writing fiction/ drama
2. Some have great *writing* ability – for non-fiction, for technical/ informational writing, and for religious writing (for books, pamphlets, lesson plans/ curriculum, sermons, etc.
3. Some have great *speaking* abilities – preaching,

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teaching, etc.

4. Some have great *problem-solving* skills

5. Some have great *reasoning* skills

6. Some have great *inter-personal* skills

\*All of these can be used to glorify God – we should recognize these abilities and not neglect to use them (remember I Tim. 4:14; Matt. 25:14-17); I Peter 4:10-11

**B.** We need to be good stewards of our God-given creative abilities

1. Consider that *suppressing* your creativity, especially if it can directly be used to teach and spread the gospel, is a great missed opportunity for service

2. To use (or overuse) your creative abilities for your own selfish purposes, to the point of compromising your service to God, is actually a form of “burying your talent”

3. Satan has a way of making us think that we have endless “free time” to do whatever pleases us – this feeling can cause us to forget to use, or waste our time by not using, our creative minds and abilities to serve God

4. There is nothing wrong or sinful with physically profiting from the use of our talents, but we should never become a slave to money or power in the process, and our self-expression should never blaspheme God (only glorify Him in the process)

**C.** Ways we can use our God-given creativity for good:

1. Create Godly families – marry Godly partners, raise Godly children

2. Create Godly friendships & relationships– ones that will help strengthen all to grow and spur each other on to reach heaven (I Cor. 15:33)

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**3.** Create Godly work environments - help to dissipate ungodly behavior by exercise of Christian behavior - Matthew 5:16

**4.** Write and publish Christian books and literature and artwork - many people in the church have great skills but never take the time to use them – why not?

**5.** Use our creative minds to teach others about the gospel – there is not just **one** approach to evangelize, so why aren't we trying new things?

**C.** How can we stimulate our sense of creativity in a Godly way?

**1.** Think about Godly ideas – Phil. 4:8

**2.** Pray to God to help reveal and help develop your personal abilities

**3.** Practice using our creative abilities to hone our skills – be willing to put in the time and do the work necessary to see things through

**4.** Avoid things which block our creativity: exhaustion, plagiarism (even of ourselves), excessive reliance on technology (especially the internet)

**5.** Avoid negative thinking ('I'm not good enough', frustration, insecurity, anger, etc.)

**6.** Be flexible – adjust or change directions when a dead-end appears, be willing to change your thinking if new and better ideas or abilities present themselves,

**7.** Focus on pleasing God with your creative energies, and gaining the joy they provide; stop trying to please everyone else

**8.** Use criticism in a helpful and constructive way – ignore the words and actions of those with petty/ jealous/ thoughtless/ evil intent to bring you down, but

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listen to helpful suggestions of those who love you and  
have your best interests at heart