

TRUTH & BEAUTY  
Week Three – Beauty & Brokenness: Art in a Fallen World

Class Overview:

Week One – God the Great Artist (August 6)

Week Two – Truth & Beauty: What is Christian Art? (August 20)

Week Three – Beauty & Brokenness: Art in a Fallen World (August 27)

- I. Review
  - a. Art and creativity come from God – Art appreciation as worship
  - b. The difficulty in defining Christian art – Artistic resonance and the gospel
  
- II. Idolatry – The perversion of truth and beauty in a fallen world
  - a. The goodness of art, beauty, and creativity
  - b. The dangers of perversion and idolatry
  
  - c. **Episode One:** The biblical period – pagan idolatry and immorality
    - i. Genesis 1:31
    - ii. Exodus 21:1–3 (The Ten Commandments)
    - iii. Romans 1:18–25
  
  - d. **Episode Two:** Icons and Iconoclasm in the Orthodox Church
    - i. St. John of Damascus: Three Treatises on the Divine Images
      1. God is spirit, so it is unfitting to make an image of his physical form.
      2. We are both body *and* spirit, so it is helpful to have a physical, visual, sensory component to our worship
  
  - e. **Episode Three:** Idolatry and icons in the Reformation
    - i. Calvin
      1. God is transcendent, he cannot be represented accurately in anything that is created.
      2. “Images are not suited to represent God’s mysteries.” (I.II.3)
  
  - f. **Episode Four:** Neo-Paganism and immorality in the modern world.
    - i. The Fall of Christendom and the rise of secularism
  
- III. Wisdom and restraint
  - a. Holy Spirit empowered discernment
  - b. Art can tend towards extremes, idolatry, and sin.