

# AN ARTIST'S CREED

"FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS. TO HIM BE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN."  
- ROMANS 11:36 -

GOD WAS PLEASED TO MAKE MAN, AND GOD MADE MAN WITH CREATIVE CAPACITIES. APART FROM GOD, MAN WOULD NOT BE, NOR WOULD MAN HAVE ANY ARTISTIC, CREATIVE ABILITY. THEREFORE, TO ENGAGE IN ANY ARTISTIC EXPRESSION OF MAN AS BEING APART FROM GOD, IS TO BOTH DISHONOR GOD, THE AUTHOR OF MAN AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION, AND TO DENY OURSELVES THE FULL PLEASURES THAT GOD HAS INTENDED FOR OUR ENJOYMENT IN ART; CULMINATING IN OUR ENJOYMENT IN HIM, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

SO WITH GOD'S HELP, AND TO THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST ALONE, AS I ENGAGE WITH ART,

## I RESOLVE:

**I. TO GROW** IN THE KNOWLEDGE, LOVE, AND ENJOYMENT OF GOD AS I EMBRACE GOD'S SKILLFUL, AESTHETIC EMANATION OF WHAT GOD KNOWS, LOVES, AND ENJOYS OF HIMSELF. (GENESIS-REVELATION)

**II. TO PURSUE** EYES THAT SEE AS GOD SEES AS I AM PRESENTED WITH ALL THAT HE HAS PUT TO IMAGE IN WHAT HE CREATED. (ROMANS 1, I SAMUEL 16:7)

**III. TO BOAST** ONLY IN CHRIST IN MY ARTISTIC LABOR SINCE ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM, AND IN CHRIST ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER. (COLOSSIANS 1:15-17, I CORINTHIANS 4:7)

**IV. TO UNDERSTAND** HOW, AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT, MY STANDING BEFORE GOD IS EXCLUSIVELY DEPENDANT AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST'S WORK ON THE CROSS, AND IS IN NO WAY EARNED BY ANY WORTHY ARTISTIC LABOR I ENGAGE IN. (COLOSSIANS 1:18-23, ROMANS 8, EPHESIANS 1-2:10)

**V. TO PUT** MY HOPE FOR SATISFACTION AND PROVISION IN GOD ALONE THROUGH THE WORK OF CHRIST, AND NEVER REST MY HOPE ON ART, AUDIENCE, OR SELF. (DEUTERONOMY 8:3, 17-20, PHILIPPIANS 4:19, ROMANS 8:18, 31-39, PSALM 107:9, MATTHEW 5:6, PSALM 40:4)

**VI. TO PURSUE** THE JOYS OF FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE AS A BONDSERVANT OF CHRIST IN ALL THAT HE HAS CALLED ME TO AND CHARGED ME WITH IN THE ARTS. (GALATIANS 1:10, ISAIAH 66:2, I PETER 1:22)

**VII. TO TAKE PLEASURE** IN ART FOR THE SAKE OF ENJOYING GOD; THE GIVER OF ART FOR MY ENJOYMENT. (I TIMOTHY 6:17, ECCLESIASTES 2:24-25)

**VIII. TO LABOR** TO ARTISTICALLY ARTICULATE THE KIND OF BEAUTY THAT WILL CONTINUE TO SATISFY EVEN AFTER MY EFFORT AT THE TANGIBLE REPRESENTATION OF THAT BEAUTY HAS LONG BEEN CONSUMED OR DESTROYED. (I TIMOTHY 6:6-7, I CORINTHIANS 3:13, JAMES 5:2-3, II PETER 3:10-12)

**IX. TO LABOR** IN THE ARTS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LAY UP AS MUCH TREASURE IN HEAVEN AS THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES AND MY FACULTIES ALLOW. (MATTHEW 6:19-21, ECCLESIASTES 11:1, II CORINTHIANS 9:6)

**X. TO SEEK** THE EDIFICATION OF OTHERS THROUGH MY ARTISTIC LABORS. (EPHESIANS 4:29, JUDE 1:17-23)

**XI. TO NOT BED** WITH THE CREEDS OF STERILITY, MEDIOCRITY OR SPINELESS-COMPLAISANCY AS THEY ALL TRADE THE GRANDEST JOYS FOR THE QUICK AND TEMPORAL. (REVELATION 3:15-19, I THESSALONIANS 2:2)

**XII. TO NOT DEFILE** MYSELF AS I STUDY, WITH MUCH DISCIPLINE, THE "LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE" OF THE ARTS. (DANIEL 1:3-8, PSALM 101:3-4, PROVERBS 21:12)

**XIII. TO DISCIPLINE** MY BODY AND MIND TO FULLY DEVELOP THE SKILLS WITH WHICH GOD HAS EN-DOWED ME, AND THAT IN THE STRENGTH THAT HE GIVES. (EXODUS 36:1, I CORINTHIANS 15:10, COLOSSIANS 1:29, PROVERBS 13:18)

**XIV. TO PRIZE** HUMILITY, AS HUMILITY IS MORE VALUABLE AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE MOST AESTHETI-CALLY PLEASING WORK HELD IN THE HAND OF PRIDE. (I PETER 5:5, PHILIPPIANS 2:3, PROVERBS 22:4, DANIEL 4:37)

**XV. TO SEEK** THE FULL PLEASURES TO BE HAD IN ART BY ENGAGING ART THROUGH ENGAGING GOD. (ROMANS 11:36, ECCLESIASTES 2:24-25, I TIMOTHY 6:17-19, JOB 38:1-2)

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