

## Beauty & the Gospel

- Colossians 1:15-20  
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- Genesis 1:31  
And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.
- “...creation was a result of the laughter of the Trinity” - *The Sacred Romance*
- Genesis 1:27  
27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- “Every child is an artist. The trick is remaining one when you grow up.”- Picasso
- **1. We Look Everywhere to Understand Our Story**
- “We painted to see if what was lost was in the picture. We composed to hear if what was lost was in the music. We sculpted to find if what was lost was in the stone. We wrote to discover if what was lost was in the story.” - *Ken Gire (Windows of the Soul)*
- “True artists have always been interested in making the invisible...visible.” - *Mako Fujimura*

- Colossians 1:15-16  
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created,
- Clip - American Beauty
- **2. We Listen for Echoes in ALL the Good Stories**
- Colossians 1:16b-17  
...all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- “Some artists may not know that they are consciously showing forth a world view. Nonetheless, a world view usually does show through. Even those works which were constructed under the principle of art for art’s sake often imply a world view. Even the world view that there is no meaning is a message” - *Francis Schaeffer*
- Clip - Walk the Line
- “you know the problem is Secular artists ask all the right questions but they don’t have the answers and Christian artists have all the answers but they don’t ask the right questions.” - GMR Teenager
- Psalm 63:3 - ...your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
- Psalm 69:3 - ...my eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.
- Psalm 79:6 - ...pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you
- **3. We’re Found in His Story.**
- “In the gospel, you don’t have one more story that points to a greater reality. It is the reality to which all stories point” - J.R.R. Tolkein (*On Fairy Stories*)

- “These then are the two points I want to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it.” - C.S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity*)
- Colossians 1:19-20  
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- Image - Prince Caspian
- “Baptize the imagination and the intellect follows” – C. S. Lewis.
- Image - Beautiful Mind
- “...because your mind, is where the problem is in the first place” - Beautiful Mind
- **Montage - Pure Imagination**
- “We do not want merely to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words — to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it...The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing...For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited...At present we are on the outside...the wrong side of the door...We cannot mingle with the pleasures we see. But all the pages of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so. Someday, God willing, we shall get “in”... We will put on glory... that greater glory of which Nature is only the first sketch.” - C.S. Lewis (*Weight of Glory*)