

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

March 15, 2018

My dear Friends:

This Sunday night, I would love for you to come to Sunday Evening Praise. As we are going along in this series of meditations on Christ's Lordship over every square inch of our lives, I intend to talk about "Christ's Lordship over the Arts." I think this is very important, especially to put beside what we talked about a couple of weeks ago, "Christ's Lordship over Science."

Increasingly in our American culture, the sciences are privileged over the arts, the so-called humanities, in drastic and remarkable ways. Perhaps you saw the news from last week where the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point proposed cutting thirteen academic programs, primarily in the liberal arts. University administrators want to replace the arts programs with STEM-oriented ones, such as computer information systems, chemical engineering, and environmental engineering.

Now, as a parent with two children studying in science-related programs, I obviously have no problem with focusing on STEM. That's not the point of the example. Nor is it to criticize university administrators who are trying to figure out how to keep a campus of a university system viable and relevant. Rather, I simply observe that this example speaks to the larger issue of how we think about the arts in general.

Yet, when we look at this world the triune God made, he made it both useful and beautiful, functional and fabulous. Jesus' creativity was such that he didn't make a drab, boring, utterly functional world; rather, he made a vibrant, surprising, sometimes eccentric world. And in doing so, he made a world that reflects his glory, that serves as a "theater" in which we see his beauty, splendor, and wisdom displayed. He is a God who worked and rested, and who invites us to do the same—to re-create by joining him in creatively using the stuff of this world to be led to the Maker himself.

The value of the arts, then, is that they point us to an aesthetic that encourages play and leisure, whimsy and reflection, beauty and wonder, story and wisdom. Whether music, literature, dance, arts, or crafts, there is a kind of know-how that allows us to see God's world, his story and glory, in new and surprising ways. And as Christians, we affirm that Christ is Lord over all things, including the arts.

I would love for you to come Sunday evening to reflect with me on how that's the case.

In the grip of God's grace,



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