

# ART IN WORSHIP

You've all heard the old cliché "Art is in the eye of the beholder," which means something is classified to be art when someone feels that it's art. Nobody can tell you what is art or not, it's up to you to decide. To one person a painting might be just a bunch of splattered colors, to another person that painting can speak their soul.

My definition of art is "The creative and visual representation of emotion."

**What is your definition of art or what does art mean to you?**

**Would you describe life as artful? Why or why not?**

Genesis 1 says we're made in God's image.

**What kinds of things does that include? Creativity, emotion, etc.**

**What kinds of things does that not include?**

**Do you imagine God as an artist? Why or why not?**

So how does art tie into worship? Below is Webster's definition of worship.

Main Entry: worship

Function:

verb

Inflected Form(s):

worshipped also worshiped; worship·ping also worship·ing

Date:

13th century

transitive verb

1 : to honor or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power

2 : to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion <a celebrity worshipped by her fans>

intransitive verb

: to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship

**What is your definition of worship?**

While worship is an action that one can perform, I think that life itself cries out to God with praise. In Psalms 66, David's writes that the world cries out to God in worship.

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When you gaze at the mountains do you think about God? When you look down at the flowers do you wonder about God's sense of delicate beauty? When you watch the animals, do you wonder how God came up with all these different species. Do you contemplate the origin and complexity of the cells in the human body that you and I are made of? And yet, although these are God's creations, He has made us in His image with the same sense of wonder, creativity, and sentiment.

**Imagine the diversity of the world, what comes to mind?**

**What things do you associate with worship?**

**In what ways are art and worship similar? In what ways are they different?**

## **Jars of Clay**

*Art In Me*

Images on the sidewalk speak of dream's decent  
Washed away by storms to graves of cynical lament  
Dirty canvases to call my own  
Protest limericks carved by the old pay phone

In your picture book I'm trying hard to see  
Turning endless pages of this tragedy  
Sculpting every move you compose a symphony  
You plead to everyone, "see the art in me"

Broken stained-glass windows, the fragments ramble on  
Tales of broken souls, an eternity's been won  
As critics scorn the thoughts and works of mortal man  
My eyes are drawn to you in awe once again

In your picture book I'm trying hard to see  
Turning endless pages of this tragedy  
Sculpting every move you compose a symphony  
You plead to everyone, "see the art in me"

Art, creativity, emotion, life, spiritual gifts, etc play a role in understanding what worship is. Although this lesson is far from an exhaustive definition of worship, the purpose of this lesson was to begin to appreciate what it means to worship. I envision this lesson being a two part series; 1) understanding worship and 2) practical ways to worship.

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## **Genesis 1: 26-27**

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

## **Psalms 66**

1-4 All together now—applause for God! Sing songs to the tune of his glory,  
set glory to the rhythms of his praise.

Say of God, "We've never seen anything like him!"

When your enemies see you in action,  
they slink off like scolded dogs.

The whole earth falls to its knees—  
it worships you, sings to you,  
can't stop enjoying your name and fame.

5-6 Take a good look at God's wonders—  
they'll take your breath away.

He converted sea to dry land;  
travelers crossed the river on foot.  
Now isn't that cause for a song?

7 Ever sovereign in his high tower, he keeps  
his eye on the godless nations.

Rebels don't dare  
raise a finger against him.

8-12 Bless our God, O peoples!

Give him a thunderous welcome!

Didn't he set us on the road to life?

Didn't he keep us out of the ditch?

He trained us first,  
passed us like silver through refining fires,  
Brought us into hardscrabble country,  
pushed us to our very limit,  
Road-tested us inside and out,

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took us to hell and back;  
Finally he brought us  
to this well-watered place.

13-15 I'm bringing my prizes and presents to your house.

I'm doing what I said I'd do,  
What I solemnly swore I'd do  
that day when I was in so much trouble:  
The choicest cuts of meat  
for the sacrificial meal;  
Even the fragrance  
of roasted lamb is like a meal!  
Or make it an ox  
garnished with goat meat!

16-20 All believers, come here and listen,

let me tell you what God did for me.  
I called out to him with my mouth,  
my tongue shaped the sounds of music.  
If I had been cozy with evil,  
the Lord would never have listened.  
But he most surely did listen,  
he came on the double when he heard my prayer.  
Blessed be God: he didn't turn a deaf ear,  
he stayed with me, loyal in his love.