

Introduction: The Creative Christian (SSM2)

God is the designer and creator of the universe and of all life, and He should not be thought of as the originator of a ready-made world but as the giver of a creation 'allowed to make itself'¹. He created us with a great capacity and drive to also be creators (in His image² as well).

We all have our individual struggles as we travel through our lives, and we must find creative ways (with the guidance of the Spirit of God³) to come through them victoriously. He allows us to exercise our creativity; He does not discourage or confine it⁴. He made us all with a channel of creativity within our souls, and He expects to see our love flow through it⁵ like the living water of which Jesus spoke⁶.

In creating the universe, God brought light out of darkness and order out of chaos⁷. He expects us to do the same thing as much as we can [ref light and bushel]. God spoke the cosmos into being from nothing, and we (of course) are not able to do that. But I believe that God's love for us is truly His greatest "creation". In His shadow we can cause love to arise from nothing⁸ and use it to create special relationships with those who are for us (or even against us).

We must be creative in our efforts to be a servant of God. He wants to see us personalize our response to him – not acting in a legalistic, mechanical, heartless fashion. We know, for example, that God worked through the unique characters of the apostles and thus the New Testament authors to establish the Kingdom and the scriptures that guide us.

I believe that God enjoys our individual, personal love and response, and looks for the best in each of us. I think that He watches to see how we assemble our creations⁹ in our efforts to follow, worship, and glorify Him. As we work together, our creativity for Lord should burst¹⁰ into view for the world to see.

1. see Faith, Science & Understanding, John Polkinghorne
2. Genesis 1:27
3. John 16:13
4. see Heaven, Randy Alcorn
5. see Come Away My Beloved, Frances J. Roberts
6. John 7:38
7. quoting Rabbi Jason in The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, Kathie Lee Gifford
8. from Playing for the Ashes, Elizabeth George
9. see Love Lives Here, Maria Goff
10. see both Whisper, Mark Batterson, and So Beautiful: Divine Design for Life and the Church, Leonard Sweet

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Ray explained, "The word translated 'carpenter' in Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3 for how Joseph and Jesus made a living is the Greek word **tektōn**. It means 'builder.' The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, Gifford, Kathie Lee, p.41 ... **Jesus is the Tektōn, the Architect of all creation**. The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, Gifford, Kathie Lee, p.42; Rabbi Jason // Jesus is the promised **master craftsman and architect of creation** who brings order out of chaos and shalom to our lives in this world and in the world to come! The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, Gifford, Kathie Lee, p.44; Rabbi Jason ... Bringing light out of darkness and order out of chaos was one of God's first actions as Creator. We are called to do the same - to bring order and shalom to the chaos of the world around us. The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, Gifford, Kathie Lee, p.45; Rabbi Jason

God is a creator, and he created us to be creators. Heaven, Randy Alcorn, loc.7375 // In Heaven God will unleash our creativity, not confine it. Heaven, Randy Alcorn, loc.7414

One of my core convictions is that the church ought to be the most creative place on the planet. Batterson, Mark, Whisper, p.121 // The church of Jesus should be bursting with creativity. So Beautiful: Divine Design for Life and the Church; Sweet, Leonard; p.91

Love arises from nothing and creates as it goes. And without it, chaos is indeed come again. George, Elizabeth, Playing for the Ashes (Inspector Lynley Book 7), p. 640

I'm banking on the notion that God isn't finished with any of us yet. I bet heaven can't wait to see what sentences He'll complete through each of us. Still, we need to start it, so He can complete it. Love Lives Here, Goff, Maria, p.94

Whatever your theology of the Bible may be, God is always defined in terms of creativity. But the Creator has creativity with a purpose, with a mission. Creativity without the thread of purpose unravels in chaos. Like the conductor in Fantasia, God is whirling and swirling creation into being. So Beautiful: Divine Design for Life and the Church; Sweet, Leonard; p.57

God loves new things. James MacDonald, Change Me Now. [look at all references to "new"]

Recall that one of the immediate Christian responses to the publication in 1859 of Charles Darwin's Origin of Species was Charles Kingsley's recognition that the Creator was no longer to be thought of as the originator of a ready-made world but as the giver of a creation 'allowed to make itself.' Faith, Science & Understanding, John Polkinghorne, p.111

Find the channel of creativity within your soul. I have made no one without it. Some have choked it with indifference; others have despised it in rebellion; others have ignored it in foolishness; others have twisted it in bitterness. But I stand ready to come to the assistance of any man or woman who sincerely endeavors to find this channel, to remove debris, to repair damage or straighten the course, and most of all to enter the flow. It is the flow of divine life. Dam it off by self-centeredness and it becomes a dead sea. Come Away My Beloved; Roberts, Frances J.; p. 235

The deep intelligibility of the world is made understandable for me by the theoretical insight that the universe is a creation and that we, to use an ancient but powerful way of speaking, are creatures made in the image of our Creator. Faith, Science & Understanding, John Polkinghorne, p.35-36

PDE: Interesting to think about "Boundless Love". We cannot love folks such that we run out of love. We're given finite amounts of time, but infinite amounts of love. HSL: We create Love; is like the flow of living water, or the never-ending supply of oil