

Echoes of Eden

Trinity Sunday School – Fall 2013

Chapter 4 – How Do We Judge The Arts? (*italics=my thoughts*)

Introduction – 1 Thess 5.20-22

1. Test everything
2. Hold fast to the good
3. Abstain from every form of evil
4. Summary: discernment is necessary

Criteria for Judging the Arts

1. Presence of a Gift – p.54
2. Development of the God-Granted Gift- p.55
3. Service of Others in Addition to Self-Expression – p56
4. Respect for the Traditions of One's Discipline – p57
5. The Presence of Truth – p. 57
6. Is there Moral Goodness? – p.59
7. Continuity of Form and Content – p.61
8. Technical Excellence – p. 61
9. Integrity of the Artist – p.62
10. Integrity in the Work – p.63
11. Simply Entertainment – p63

Other Factors

1. The Problem of Elitism and Snobbery: It is fine that we all enjoy books, films and music that are not particularly good art; we all have different tastes that should be respected.
2. Yet there are objective standards of quality: resist the "equalizing heresy" (never regard some works as better than others)
3. The devotion of the heart: this should be present, but not replace objective quality

4. Artistic giftedness is not equivalent to moral greatness: we are all stewards called to use our gifts wisely and well, as the Lord requires (Micah 6.8)

Thinking Christianly About Literature - Leland Ryken

Perspectives on Art – Francis Schaeffer

Summary

1. Objectivity – basic elements of communication
2. Flexibility – allow for diversity, culture, timing
3. Integrity – true to self, universe, form