

Art, jewelry and images

***What is acceptable as 'orthodox' and what is ruled "unsuitable"?
Art, dance, music, fashion, performance, and merchandise***

Biblical overview

1. Psalm 19:1 What does this verse say about God's ability to create?
2. John 15:5 What is a Christian artist's greatest source of creativity?
3. Make a list of handcrafts carried out in Biblical times.
 - a) Jer 18:2-6
 - b) Acts 9:43
 - c) 1 Kings 7
 - d) 1 Chron 22:15

What Would Jesus Say?

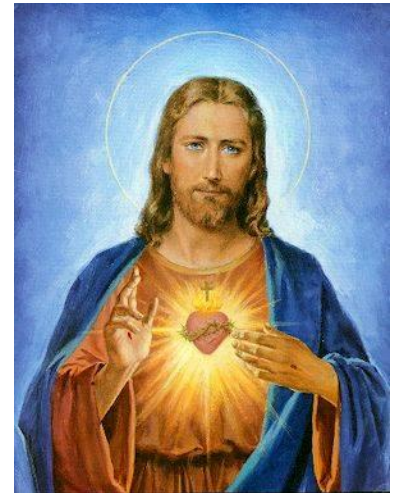
1. Is it OK to wear a cross as a "lucky charm"? Does this cross cheapen and soften what was an instrument of torture?
2. The Muslims and Jews don't make art images of God or Mohammed. They would claim that Christians disobey the Commandments by artwork like the one of this blue-eyed Jesus. Do you agree with them? Why or Why not?
3. *You are not to make an image or picture of anything in heaven or on the earth or in the waters under the earth: Ex 20:4* Do we break this commandment in making religious art or even in photographing other Christians? This is the line of argument of traditional Jews. How would you respond?
4. It is possible to buy car seat covers with Christian art on it, neck ties, cheap china mugs, T shirts, glow in the dark crosses, Christian postcards and all manner of merchandise that presents as being "Christian art". If you were to write guidelines for your local church shop, (which usually trades on the Sabbath), what would be your principles for selection of merchandise?
5. Look at the art work on the next page. Does any person have a heart in the centre of their chest as Jesus does in this painting? What is the likely hair colour, eye colour and complexion of Jesus? Does this Jesus look too gentle and almost effeminate to you? Do the two hands in the painting look like those of a tradesman? There are pictures of Jesus looking like a person who works out in a gym too, what lifestyle did Jesus live? So what type of physique is likely as a result? What does the book of Isaiah say about the physical appearance of the Messiah?
6. What problems have arisen historically because of the fact that most representations of Jesus for the last millennium have depicted him as being an

ethnically Anglo, Western Caucasian person? What did Jesus *actually* look like according to His nationality?

7. Art is an important force in a society. In a totalitarian culture art is strongly regulated. Look at some of the art of the Nazi era, or that of Communist Russia or China. Or go back and see how rigid convention held art to a narrow expression in ancient Egypt. What do you think is God's intention and plan for art in our digital age and fast paced society? How can it serve the gospel and not cheapen it? How can it speak of excellence and point to the supernatural that is the backdrop to everyday busy living that focuses on the immediate, the sensory and the promotion of avarice?
8. Do you think any of the following three works are legitimate examples of "Christian art"? Is Christian art only what is found in cathedrals and galleries?
9. One of the artworks combines the wonderful work of Durer's hands with a cross. Research this story if you don't know who the hands belonged to and why Albrecht sketched them. Durer is an example of a reformation artist who depicted with great skill subjects obviously religious and things less apparently so. Take a look at his famous sketch of a rabbit. What principles of art did Durer's life enshrine?



Albrecht's Hands



http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/durer_albrecht.html
<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/durer/>