

Bibliography

Eliot, T. S. *Christianity and Culture*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1948.

Not for the faint of heart, but tremendously rewarding reading on Christianity, culture, government, the arts, and the relationship among them. The finest poet of the modern era expostulates on the importance of Christianity to a vibrant society.

Barrs, Jerram. *Echoes of Eden*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2013.

I'm still working through this one, at Bruce Young's recommendation. My thought on scanning the table of contents was, "Shoot! He's already written my class."

Gallagher, Susan V. and Roger Lundin. *Literature Through the Eyes of Faith*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1989

This book is a good all-around introduction to literature for Christians. It could be a text for a freshman literature course at a Christian college but will also be helpful to anyone interested in thinking Christianly about books and poems.

Kuyper, Abraham. *Lectures on Calvinism*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1943.

This book is an absolute classic regarding the Calvinistic worldview. He explores its relationship to religion, society, politics and art. It's based on lectures given by the Dutch theologian, newspaperman, and politician at the turn of the last century when he visited Princeton, but it's every bit as relevant today as it was then.

Lewis, C. S. *An Experiment in Criticism* [1961]. Cambridge, Great Britain: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Primarily about literature, but Lewis is clear in his thinking about literary (artistic criticism) and writes in the same tone as *Mere Christianity* and such. In addition to his Christian writing, Lewis is still regarded as one of the finest critics of English poetry and prose ever to have written. His book on *The Faerie Queene* and 16th c. English literature are still required for many PhD students working on the Renaissance. Also, *Til We Have Faces* is a Lewis novel well worth one's time.

MacDonald, George. "The Fantastic Imagination," in *The Gifts of the Child Christ & Other Stories & Fairy Tales*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.

The essay is a must read for anyone interested in science fiction and fantasy writing (or fairy tales). The rest of the stories are great examples of what Christian writing should be. *The History of Photogen and Nycteris* is a favorite. He was a major influence on Lewis' fiction.

Middleton, J. Richard & Brian J. Walsh. *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1995.

Middleton & Walsh write less about the arts than about the effects of postmodern thought, but for those interested in late 20th century art and (pop) culture, this book is indispensable. The also interact with many Christian musicians performing in the secular world (e.g. Bruce Cockburn, to whom everyone should listen.)

Myers, Kenneth A. *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1989.

This book's subtitle, "Christians and Popular Culture," says it all. It's a personal favorite full of wit and wisdom. He deals with the significance of distinctly Christian art, the value of "high" art, and the relative value of "pop" art.

O'Connor, Flannery. *Mystery and Manners*. New York: Noonday Press, 1962.

The former Milledgeville resident and acclaimed short story writer provides essays on being a Southerner and a writer, a Catholic and a writer, peacocks, and other aspects of her work. The dual value of this volume is that it takes readers inside a writer's head and that it has much valuable to say about the philosophy of writing (and art).

Romanowski, William D. *Pop Culture Wars*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996.

Romanowski provides a fascinating history of the rise of popular culture out of the industrial revolution. He does an excellent job of drawing both positive and negative out of popular culture and the evangelical church's reaction to it. This book may be a bit dry, but it's fascinating history.

Rookmaker, H. R. *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture* [1970]. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994.

A friend of Francis Schaeffer, Rookmaker attempts to place modern art in context. He avoids being too pessimistic but doesn't paint a completely rosy picture, either. I especially appreciate the style of this book. Rookmaker writes as a scholar but holds onto a historical Christian orthodoxy at the same time.

Rookmaker, H. R. *Art Needs No Justification*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College Publishing, 1978.

After some blowback among Christians thinking that he dismissed the value of art, Rookmaker wrote this helpful apologetic. A concise but valuable starting point.

Ryken, Leland. *The Liberated Imagination*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 1989.

This book is a great starting point; Ryken is clear, yet thoughtful. In the early 90s, it had a tremendous impact upon me. He establishes both the practical and spiritual significance of the arts and provides many tools for interacting with them intelligently. For those who desire to understand more about the arts but don't know where to begin, there isn't a better starting point.

Schaeffer, Francis A. [Pretty much everything, esp. *The God Who Is There*, *Escape From Reason*, *He Is There and He Is Not Silent*, and *Art and the Bible*]

Last time I wrote a bibliography like this one, I wrote, "Everybody should read everything Francis Schaeffer wrote." Maybe not, but no writer more greatly influenced my thought as an undergraduate student. The trilogy above focuses on philosophy and culture, and *Art and the Bible* is similar to Rookmaker's apology. The book and video *How Should we then Live* might be a bit dated but provides a great short history of Western Civilization.

Veith, Gene Edward. *State of the Arts: From Bezalel to Mapplethorpe*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991.

This book, part of Crossway's Turning Point series provides a guide to understanding the arts, a section on the biblical foundations of art, and a final section on Christianity and the arts. Veith is a generalist who has much helpful to say.

Veith, Gene Edward. *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994.

See the above description. The sections in this book are Postmodern Thought, Postmodern Art, Postmodern Society, and Postmodern Religion. Veith has some interesting things to say about the opportunities postmodernism provides for the church to establish a Christian counterculture.

Items in **blue** are fairly easy and good starting points. The **red** items are more challenging.