



WOMEN WHO PRIZE
BEING FOUND IN CHRIST

I am a Creator

By: Haley Wilson

My husband is a painter, and years ago I'd often sit with him as he painted extravagant artworks of his imagination. I was amazed at his steady hand; the lines he chose were precise and firm. In the beginning, his work made no sense to the average eye, but he saw it all. He knew the strokes, the lines, the colors. He saw where they would go, and he let them be placed in his mind and then on the page. He can make something out of a white sheet of paper with great skill and talent.

I, however, am not a painter. I am not even good at writing letters with a pen! My hand is fast and unsteady, and my mind feels incapable of creating a painting like I've seen him do so often. You would laugh along with me at my attempts at drawing. But yet, I am a creator.

We must be cautious not to make adjectives like "creative" & "artist" synonymous. Though that is a popular thought among our own culture, it is not within the Kingdom.

We have all seen God's handiwork in the Earth, and He is certainly a creator. The warm sunlight that touches your arms as your drive during the day, and the wind against your face. The beauty in people we know, in plants, in animals: the rarity of existence, the stars, the moon, the earth— it's overwhelming.

Monet, Van Gogh, Picasso and almost all artists of the history of the world were not ignorant of the beauty of God's creation, even if they were ignorant of God Himself. Their paintings were not trying to, but they glorified God anyway by recognizing the depth of His creation in their replication of it. Like taking a photograph of something beautiful, that was already there.

If they can do that by accident, then we can do that on purpose.

We box up the creativity of God, we when place everything dealing with creativity into a category like “artist.” See not all humans are artists of a tangible craft, but all humans are image bearers and host the spirit of God inside them. Though God gives art gifts to humans as well, there is nowhere in His word that says we must have one of those gifts for our creativity to be valuable. In fact, He tells us straight up:

Genesis 1:27 *So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

Creativity isn’t something that we acquire because we have skills or talents; it is something that is in our DNA as a person made in Gods image.

“There are no ordinary people.” C.S. Lewis wrote, and I sort of hope that phrase bursts your bubble if you happen to acquaint yourself in the category of ordinary individuals that walk this earth.

Madeline L’Engle, the author of my favorite book ever says, **“Creativity is a way of living life, no matter our vocation or how we earn our living. Creativity is not limited to the arts, or having some kind of important career.”**

And if that is the case, and our innate creativity is rooted in believing that we walk the earth as image of God-bearers, then Creative Living is necessary to create the Kingdom of God on earth.

The freeing part of this revelation is that creativity is accessible and possible for every person. Let that idea root hope in you; **you are capable of creative adventures because of the Spirit of God in you.** That truth takes the pressure off of your ability and opens wide doors of opportunity.

How do we live life in creativity? There are many different ways, and they all can apply to each person's specific life or passion. Here are a few things I meditate on often regarding creative lifestyle:

//PRACTICE

Being creative is really uncomfortable because you often have to start with nothing. When God created the world and heavens, The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. Then God said, “Let there be light.”

He was looking at His blank page. When you start a word document for something, there is always a moment before you place anything on the page that there is just blankness. That blankness can be super intimidating.

This moment, however, is the seed of creativity and so it is where discouragement attacks us the most. Whether you are starting a business, a small group, a new project, or a new idea for your family, practice being uncomfortable in creativity, **practice being bold and allowing God to come into small moments to create significant results- even if nothing looks promising at first.**

//PROCESS

I have an idea I like to call the “Poof” effect. The “Poof” effect is when we are a consumer of something, and we only see the end product. Movies are a great example of this, we go to the theater and see a great film– but we didn’t see the original storyboard. We didn’t see the failures during shooting, or the budgeting problems and compromises. We saw the end product, the wonder, the “Poof!”

Creativity as a lifestyle is a process, not a “Poof,” and it takes trust. **Trust that God is a good orchestrator and that we are not really in control at all.** Trust that if we show up, and are willing to do, God can and will move in what we are doing.

//CHOOSE

I cannot tell you how many times I have heard somebody say, “Oh that isn’t a job for me. I am not creative like that.” I am not sure what it is you do every day, but to express any creativity wherever you find yourself you have the desire to do something.

God did not accidentally create the world, and you as well will never create something without choosing to. Remember, choosing to identify ourselves as either ‘creative’ or ‘non-creative’ is not something God created us to do. Perhaps you keep finding yourself hitting walls when you try and reach for creative ideas in your life; maybe this is because we’ve planted ourselves as ‘non-creative.’

Romans 12:1-2 *Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

Do not deny the image bearer inside of you, just because you do not find yourself qualified. Renew your mind by bringing this to the presence of God, **change the way you think and copy the behavior and customs of what you see God doing throughout scripture: CREATING!**

My hope for you this month, is as you see yourself as an image bearer and creator in Christ, that avenues you may have never seen as creative before come alive in His work in your life.

conversation starters

1. What does creativity mean to you? If you had to define creativity in your own words, what would you say?
2. In all honesty, what inspires you? Is it vacations, or trips to beautiful places. Maybe it is food or a good book. Some people get inspired by spending time with other people, or time with God!
3. In what areas of your life would you like to be more creative? For instance, you may want more creative opportunities at work, or within your family.
4. What makes you YOU, original and unique— how do you think God wants to use those traits He gave you to create new things in your life, or in the lives of others?

STUDY

If you find yourself wanting to know more about being creative in Christ here are a few books I reference in this study:

- Walking on Water, Madeline L'Engle
- Cultivate, Cageless Birds

ACT

Set aside time to ask God what He thinks about you as a creator. Ask for specific areas in your life, and see what sort of creative opportunities He reveals to you. Take a piece of paper and write, draw, fold, journal and respond to what He says however you feel led- in any way you want! Put that idea somewhere that will remind you; you are a creator!

prayer needs

Write down the prayer requests of your group members, and pray fervently for them! Let your group members know when you are praying for them, if you have any scriptures or encouraging words for them, etc.