



Course: Awakening Wonder: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty With Dr. Stephen Turley

Lesson 5: Redeeming the Senses

Outline:

“You [O Lord] called and cried aloud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.”

St. Augustine

A question for further study: How is the classical tradition of education, grounded in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, connected to the Judeo-Christian tradition of worship?

- You are invited to articulate the main ways in which “education” is related to “worship” with others on the Classical U website!

Possible answer: The different modalities of worship that together make up the existential orientation of worship, include, (but are not limited to)

- Sense-perception (aesthesis)
- Contemplation (theoria)
- Rational communication (logos).
- Sense-perception, contemplation, and rational communication are all informed and refined by education. They are also ways in which we as creatures can participate in the community of worship towards our Creator.
- “And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ” (Matthew 22:37) Love is the ultimate expression of our worship and our communion with God. Our worship is grounded in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

“The Aesthetic Nature of Knowledge”

- Truth, Goodness, and Beauty are cosmic values; they draw us into a harmonious relationship with the cosmos.
- Redemption of the senses: “...a redirecting of the senses away from the carnal and the sensual and toward the eternally True, Good, and Beautiful and thus prepares the body for its resurrection.” (Awakening Wonder, p. 50)
 - Sacred sound
 - Sacred sight
 - Sacred drama



- Heaven and Earth are united in Jesus Christ, and we have access to this Divine life through participation in the cosmic communion (koinonia) in Jesus Christ
- Creation as the temple of the Lord of creation sung into being (Gregory of Nyssa)
- Artistic symbolism in early Christianity was able to communicate the message of the Gospel beyond the language barriers of different ethnic groups.
- The sacred drama of the Divine Liturgy portrays a vision of the new creation.
- The Christian understands the Fine Arts in the light of the Incarnation; beautiful art, for instance, redeems the senses. Inspiring depictions of the new creation in Jesus Christ purifies and illuminates our imagination. Through the Christian understanding and practice of the Fine Arts, we are prepared for the resurrection and the transfiguration of the cosmos.