

# Art and worship - a vital connection

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## Visual Arts in Worship: From either/or to both/and

As chairman of the from 2004 to 2006, Mike Huckabee, then governor of Arkansas, launched an initiative designed, according to commission literature, to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn about, enjoy, and participate directly in the arts. When Peter sought to give undue adoration to Moses and Elijah, he was shown that these Old Testament worthies were not in the same category with the Son of God Matthew 17:4, 5. In addition to the weekly observance of the Lord's Table, the New Testament records indicate worship in the apostolic church also included the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs , prayer , almsgiving , the reading and teaching of the Old Testament and apostolic doctrine , and the manifestation of a variety of spiritual gifts.

## Integrating Visual Arts in Worship

The study of the Old Testament worship is important for at least two reasons.

### Worship Invites God's Presence

The purpose of preaching focused less on persuasion and more on transformation, less on asserting religious truths and more on offering an experience of the Gospel. For example, the Christian office of bishop or overseer combined some of the duties of the head of the synagogue who presided over the worship service , the minister who often functioned as the synagogue tutor , and the interpreter who both translated and explained the Scripture lessons and sermon. All of the chores around the house are slowly getting done: cleaning the oven, sorting out closets, deciding which books to sell, etc.

### art4worship

In modern terms, the first issue was really one of ethnic and cultural diversity, as the early church debated the implications of the gospel of Jesus Christ for Jew and Gentile. And yet, they alone are insufficient, for we must eat, heal, defend ourselves, trade, build, find our way around, and more. The role of professional or volunteer choirs and musicians is to aid the whole people of God in their worship.

### Why Art Should Matter to Christians

They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good. So what can you do? First, the Old Testament Scriptures are part of the Christian canon, which means these documents are valuable for the Christian church as divinely inspired revelation of God and authoritative for the life of the church at least in theological principle, if not in literal teaching. Jensen, *The Substance of Things Seen*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004 2.

### **What is Worship? Biblical Meaning & Definition**

Calvin recognized the emotional power of music and for that reason included the singing rather than the saying of Psalms in the church in Geneva.

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