

**QUESTION #34** – Will there be individual artistic things and creativity in Heaven?

We live in a world of creativity, beauty and skill. God does not get much credit for what He has allowed humans to create and achieve, but the fact is He is the God who did it. According to Proverbs 8:12, God is the one that actually allows people to learn and discover and discern things. In fact, one translation of this verse says that this means God allows people to find “witty inventions.”

Now think for a moment of what has been developed in just the last 20 years. God has allowed inventions such as: 1) Internet; 2) E Mail; 3) MP3 Player; 4) DVD; 5) Digital Cameras; 6) I Pads; 7) GPS; 8) Hybrid Cars. Think of some of the wonderful paintings that we see of God’s creation. I used to love to go to Jackson Hole, Wyoming and to the art galleries that featured beautiful paintings of the Rocky Mountains that display the genius and glory of God.

The question that concerns this doctrine is this—in heaven would these kinds of things still exist? Would there be artistic things in heaven and would new discoveries continue to be made?

There are some Biblical observations we may make that would help to answer this question:

**Observation #1** - We know from Isaiah 65:21 that houses will be built.

This has to do with a New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem. The language indicates they will be real houses and they will really live in those houses. Now all houses are not alike and depending on the likes and dislikes of an individual, houses are different. What that would lead us to conclude is that there will be individual creativity. We know that there are specific buildings in heaven with specific measurements and specs. Someone has to build it.

Now if houses will be built and people will live in those houses, we could assume that something could potentially hang on walls. We would not assume all walls would be bare. If there are pictures hanging on a wall, someone had to paint them, which would mean artistic ability exists in heaven.

**Observation #2** - We know from many passages that there will be singing of songs. Ps. 104:33; Ps. 149:1; Rev. 14:3

We could certainly conclude from this that there will be artistic voices in heaven singing beautiful songs.

**Observation #3** - We know that instruments will be played and someone has to play them. Ps. 150:3; Rev. 8:2; 15:2

There are trumpets, harps, lyres, stringed instruments, pipe instruments, timbrels and cymbals. We would conclude that skilled musicians will be using these instruments in the most sacred of all settings. Someone has to play those instruments at a skilled level.

**Observation #4** - We know that reading and writing were very important to God and His Word exists in heaven. Rev. 22:18-19

We certainly can make the assumption that we will be more interesting in reading and understanding God's Word in heaven than we would ever be here on earth. It would take on a new dimension. Just imagine the camaraderie that will exist around the Word of God in heaven. What this would indicate is that there will be those who will be given to serious study in heaven. Now we would suspect that the guy who builds the house will study the Word of God, but that may not be his greatest skill. His greatest skill is building a house. So there will be individual creativity.

**Observation #5** - We know that there will be eating and drinking in heaven. Mark 14:25; Luke 22:30

Now if there is eating and drinking in heaven, someone has to prepare the food and someone has to prepare the drinks. What that would teach us is that there will be creative things in heaven and different people will have different skills and will use them for the glory of God.

**Observation #6** - We know that there will be things in heaven that will make you laugh. Luke 6:21

There will be laughter in heaven and there will be people and stories that will make you laugh. There is no question that there are people who are quick-witted and they do make you laugh. We could probably legitimately conclude that most of the comedians of this world won't be in heaven but there will be funny things that will be in heaven.

**Observation #7** - We know that there are many sports mentioned in the Bible.

Sports, in itself, is not sinful. We may observe that there are at least 12 sports mentioned in Scripture. Some were apparently viewed as sports in Biblical times and others perhaps not:

- 1) Hunting - Gen. 27:1-4; 20
- 2) Wrestling - Gen. 32:24-25
- 3) Target shooting with a sling shot - Judges 20:16
- 4) Target shooting with a bow and arrows - I Sam.20:20
- 5) Horse racing - I Kings 4:26, 28; 10:26
- 6) Chariot racing - I Kings 4:26; 10:26 - most races six miles with heavy betting
- 7) Fishing - John 21:5-11
- 8) Running - Jer. 12:5; I Cor. 9:24, 26; Heb. 12:1 - races were long and short, some with full armor
- 9) Boxing - I Cor. 9:26; II Tim. 4:7
- 10) Exercising - I Tim. 4:8
- 11) Athletic competition - II Tim. 2:5; Phil. 3:14
- 12) Swimming - Is. 25:11; Ezek. 47:5; Acts 27:42-43

Competition is a good thing. It is true in this world it can bring out the worst in people, but in heaven, as Randy Alcorn said, there is no worst to bring out (*Heaven*, p. 427).