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Homework report: Chapter 8

- 1) I believe that the best way to Christian cultural landscape to be used to evaluate popular artworks is the perspective of which the movie is told. In other words, in other to see that the ideals, beliefs, values and etc. of the Christian cultural landscape we need to first check if in that fictional world or not God is being still presented as someone that exists.
- 2) Yes. I believe that we can take a lot of spiritual references to christianity from many movies from Hollywood, and they are notable references. However, I believe that we are justified in doing it so if the author states that in that specific movie a spiritual reference was made, like in Chronicles of Narnia or Lord of the Rings. If the author states clearly that his intentions are not to offer any spiritual references, then I believe that still associating that movie with spiritual references can be interpreted as a selfish way of seeing the world of entertainment.
- 3) Because evil is a great appeal to all people and having strong villains brings in humans the anger of seeing someone evil having success in his/hers evil plans. To christians, this is even more appealing in my opinion, because they see the ultimate evil in reality, against the figure of Satan.
- 4) I agree with the author because we live in a fallen world where terrible things happen, and this should be shown in the popular arts, but it cannot be and end by itself. In other

words, the use of these terrible things should not have the goal to only make people feel bad, but to show how the solution is even greater than the problem.

- 5) I believe that we as humans try to control everything that we can, and demanding a happy ending to fiction works show how some people are still attached to their primitive instincts of being controllers. In other words, a sad ending is the definition of not being in control at all because the character that you liked died or did not get justice and this you cannot control. I believe that the best way to deal with it is having more popular works that do not have a happy ending, because then we can be educated to expect the unexpected. For example, Game of Thrones attracted a lot of fans because it specifically did not obey people's expectations to a happy ending, but when the producers tried to give a happy ending to the tv-show almost everyone in the audience hated the end of it.

Homework report: Chapter 9

- 1) I say that the melodramatic way vision goes against the christian faith because it focuses all in the man fulfillment and works. It desconsiders the belief that all men sinned and creates various stereotypes of human heroes with good hearts that do not depend on God to repent from their sins, and some of these heroes in these stories do not even sin, as if they were perfect.
- 2) The classical Hollywood film is driven by cause-and-effect narrative. In other words, the story is told around a main character's actions and its future effects. This feature can work against the christian faith when it puts the man in the center, and worships its image as a unique being who possesses all the creativity and resolution.

- 3) I believe to the extent that highlights their hard work because when your hard work is clearly seen, then you have something to justify why you should be successful. Most of the people justify the desire for being successful to make a difference in the world because they do not want to look like a selfish person.
- 4) These portrayals can distort our understanding by making people see things only with their own perspective, and forget about all the others perspectives in play. The exaggeration of individualism makes someone think that they are the only people that have a solution or they are the one's being chased by a major conspiracy, and etc.
- 5) Classical Hollywood → Citizen Kane. In this movie all things happen around the main character's story. All things happen for a reason and all of them have a purpose.

This is the classical Hollywood formula.

Melodrama → La La Land. This movie is an opposition to the melodram format because the characters are not stereotypical nor their intentions. The story unfolds in a realistic way that it is also not an ultimate happy ending.

Individualism → Joker. This movie totally talks about someone's individuality that is being harmed. I believe this movie is all about individualism, even that it shows the worst part of someone's individualism.

Religion → The shack. This movie is the definition of a good approach to religion because it contrasts all the stereotypes about christinanity in cinema, and still remains biblical and faithful to its religion.

Materialism → The founder. This is the movie that shows how materialism rules upon american culture. The story of the owner of the biggest fast food chain in the world gives a view of how the guy that is doing all those trick things to get to the power, is just one regular american, meaning that all people would be capable of doing what he did.

- 6) The Hollywood landscape about materialism is more full of “Self-justice”, in other words, I did so I deserve while christian view about wealth is “The lord gave me the air to work, so it all belongs to him.
- 7) We should clarify how this mentality can be toxic for their minds. That the material things are here to serve us and not to rule upon our needs and wills.

Homework report: Chapter 10

- 1) The two main gender stereotypes that I want to describe is the Woman who is emotionally unstable and causes troubles because of her mental instability, and the Man who is tough and does not share emotions. I believe that both stereotypes are bad images because first, a woman in the christian perspective is the wise person in the house, the one that supports her husband and also administers the business, like described in the book of proverbs. The man is supposed to be like Jesus in his life, so being tough and not sharing emotions is far away from acting like Jesus acted, Jesus shared feelings even that he was God.
- 2) I believe that there is no place for the erotic in the popular art works, and it is not because I believe is wrong talking about it, but the Bible says that it is a private matter. therefore , I believe that exposing any erotic content in the popular art is not a christian position.

- 3) I believe that the devil disturbed the image of sex for a lot of Christians by using religious dogmas to turn something that is beautiful in the eyes of God, into something filthy. I think that sex is the most intimacy that someone can have with another person, and in my christian perspective, I believe that during sex, something happens, something that I call a "Souls' connection". I believe that sex is the most pleasurable way of accomplishing a God's mission to us "Multiply over the earth". I Believe that God is so good that he made sex pleasurable because he wanted us to have pleasure while doing the mission that he gave us.
- 4) No. I tried and I really could not think of any popular art that treats sex like the specific way that it needs to be treated.

Homework report: Chapter 11

- 1) Violence is the main form that American mythology finds its fulfillment of justice because the person harmed by the criminal actions feels that he is being punished and other people in society see that committing that crime is not worth it. I believe that we as christians should reject and condemn most kinds of violence practice, with the exception of using violence for self-defense or the defense of others.
- 2) Violence in the Bible comes also with the best of human experiences, showing always a better way of dealing with things. The Hollywood movies violence is placed as a good in itself, that it is the only exit for those situations.
- 3) The first type of movies that I can think of when the matter is treated violence appropriately is the superman movies, the old ones because they show us that he is

someone so powerful that can destroy the earth but still he refuses to kill anyone because he believes that violence is not the right way.

- 4) I believe that in some cases violence is needed specifically if the intention is to shock people while approaching an issue. I would definitely say that art can do without it, but it would not have the same impact in people's perception of reality.