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Renewal Lectures

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our aesthetic responses need not be equivalent to our judgments of aesthetic value. This leaves room for both the cultivation of taste and appreciation as well as for the development of criteria to analyze and evaluate art works.

Although Dr. Barker wanted to give the major task of criticism to the expert and specialist, he also affirmed that everyone can and must make judgments concerning the arts. Critical evaluations must be given honestly, clearly, helpfully, and with appropriate tone. They must be made with humility, with high standards, with criteria appropriate to the different features of art works, and with an awareness of the historic relativity of different styles. His position was carefully qualified: he advocated striving for artistic excellence without absolutizing it.

Each of the major features of art

works, namely, representation, expression, the intrinsic and the effective, can be the object of the critic's attention, said Dr. Barker. "Responsible criticism applies to a particular work, criteria appropriate to the feature or features characteristic of that work." Previously we noted that it is the intrinsic that Dr. Barker regards as the feature most identifiable with the aesthetic, and in this lecture we learned that it is beauty which he regards as the "... term comprising all the criteria appropriate to the intrinsic feature of art works."

Each of his lectures was followed by critique and discussion by the Dordt faculty. His work deserves the attention of the larger Christian community which struggles with the issues related to art and the aesthetic aspect of human experience.

by Abe Bos

Renewal Lectures

"Renewal Reverberations" was the theme chosen by Dr. Sidney De Waal for the Dordt College Reformation Day lecture series. Dr. De Waal is pastor of the Third Christian Reformed Church in Edmonton, Alberta, and an official in the development of The King's College. Speaking to a capacity audience at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center on Sunday afternoon, De Waal laid the foundation for his subsequent public addresses.

Warning his listeners not to accept reductionistic views of the Christian task and witness, Dr. De Waal pointed them to the full Biblical demands of the Christian faith. We must, he said, take seriously renewal in Jesus Christ.

In three lectures, De Waal focused on the meaning of renewal in the family, in education, and in the church. He began his first lecture by stressing the many difficulties facing the family today. Chris-

tian families, too, he maintained, experience much hurt in today's world. He also observed that "Salvation does not eliminate psychic problems, and the elimination of psychic problems does not mean salvation." We may distinguish between our personal relationship to God in Christ and our psychic and physiological functioning, but we must never separate them. Dr. De Waal went on to illustrate various problem situations prevalent in families today.

Renewal in the family must begin with a proper understanding of the relationships involved. Central in the family is the husband-wife relationship. In order for a marriage to be healthy, husband and wife must first come to know themselves and then must come to a deep understanding of each other. In the husband-wife relationship, De Waal continued, both husband and wife must be straight in their communications. The message must be clear, and generalities must be avoided.

But the family usually also involves the parent-child relationship. Renewal in this aspect of family living, said Dr. De Waal, means that parents must take account of the various stages of development through which children pass. Parents must discipline in full awareness of how the child sees himself and how he sees his parents.

In the second public lecture, Dr. De Waal spoke about renewal in education. Stressing once again a relational view as indispensable, he reviewed recent developments in the secular view of education. He saw the secularists stressing affective learning in the early 1970's, and more recently taking a "back-to-the-basics" approach. Underlying every view, he said, is a basic answer to the question, "Who is man?" The question has become even more crucial today because it is asked in the context of the reality of genetic engineering.

The speaker stressed that the Christian alone has the answer to the question, "Who is man?" The child is the image bearer of God. But Christians have not taken that very seriously in their educational

theory and practice. Therefore, we must work to humanize education from a Christian point of view. To opt for either a "God-centered" or a "child-centered" curriculum is to accept a false dichotomy. Instead, Christians must work with a Biblical view of man's humanity as a gift from God. The one learning process includes many aspects, and all must be acknowledged.

De Waal summed up his approach in the following way:

We must work for a uniform approach in curriculum and methodology which does justice to the Scriptural norms of humanity. The child in relationship develops and learns within a community that is creatively open, wisely structural, free, delimited, self expressive, community responsive, of service to God, and aware of children's needs and psychical development.

Dr. De Waal's final lecture focused on renewal in the church. Stressing again the confusion and alienation of our times, he noted the widespread disillusionment of church members with the church because of its irrelevance. Too often the church is seen as holding to old forms and traditions simply because they are old.

Renewal in the church means that we must live in relationship, stated De Waal. In the past, formal worship services and church societies were enough, but today more is needed, so we must develop new forms of worship. Reviewing numerous Biblical references, he stressed the need today to foster a sustained fellowship among the family of God. Specifically, this requires Christians to be completely available to each other and to have unlimited liability for each other.

De Waal illustrated the direction of renewal in the church today by references to his own congregation's struggles to provide a sustained and sustaining fellowship.

by Rev. Wayne Kobes