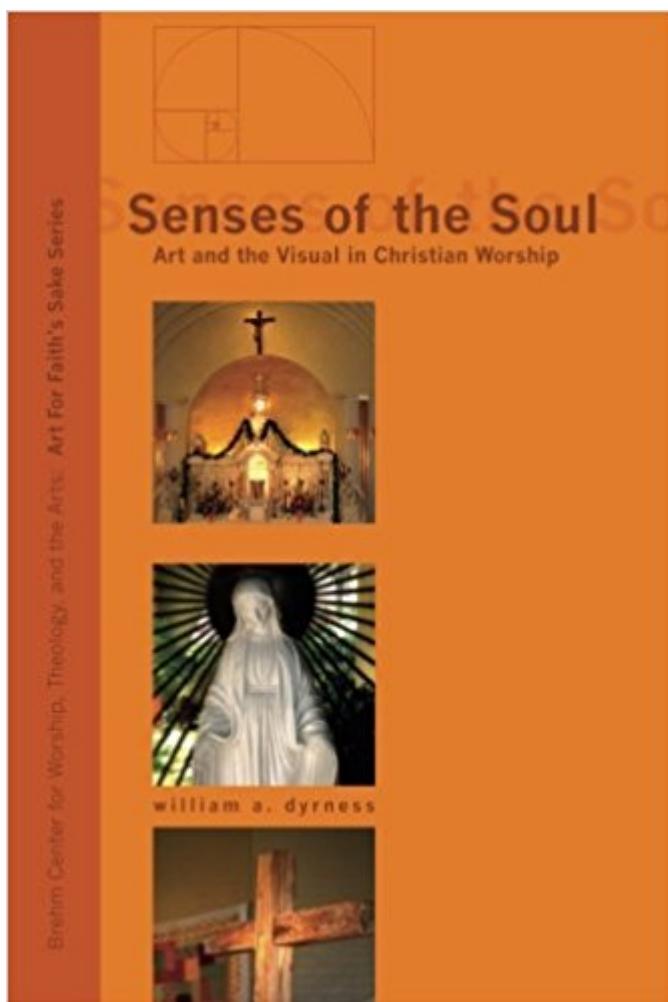


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# Senses Of The Soul: Art And The Visual In Christian Worship (Art For Faith's Sake)



## **Synopsis**

Senses of the Soul explores the way art and visual elements are incorporated into Christian worship. It incorporates research conducted in Los Angeles congregations. Through extensive interviews in a sample of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox congregations it looks into the way visual elements actually become part of the experience of worship. By looking at attitudes and experiences of beauty, art, and memories, it suggests that believers appropriate images and aesthetic encounters in terms of imaginative structures that have been formed through worship practices over time. By comparing responses across denominations, the book proposes that people receive visual elements in ways that have been shaped by long traditions and specific background beliefs. In addition to discussions of the differences between the major Christian traditions, the book also examines the relation of art and beauty to worship, the role of memories and everyday life, and the power of images in spirituality and worship. By its focus on the worshiper, the book seeks to make a contribution to the growing conversation between the arts and Christian worship and to the process of worship renewal.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

William A. Dyrness is Professor of Theology and Culture in the School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the author most recently of *Reformed Theology and Visual Culture* (2004) and *Visual Faith* (2001).

I found the book itself very interesting. He took a sample from 3 mainline types of worship (Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant) and researched their views of visual art in worship. Some of it was really surprising, some confusing and some thought provoking. My main complaint was the amount of grammatical errors. There were so many I found it distracting and it lowered my respect for his opinion. That being said, I would recommend the book as it will cause you to ask questions about how you view visual art in worship and why.

"Notice in their the references to beauty Protestants are able to make the connection with what we might call non-liturgical, personal, even 'secular' elements." (p. 104) is but one example of the writing in this book. Plowing through this was the most mental acrobatic activity I have had the displeasure to experience. Not sure what the author was trying to say when the sentences were constructed correctly as he often contradicted himself. If you have to read this book as a requirement for a class, good luck. If it's not required, don't bother.

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