



Copyright on Life

Recently copyright laws in Canada have changed to include protection of creative works for the lifetime of the author/creator plus 70 years from the calendar year of their death. While the intricacies of the copyright act can turn our minds into a tangled web of spaghetti, one fact remains; it defines a creator and what he creates is his own. In the law, the rights of integrity refer to the authors ability to preserve the intended meaning of the work and protect it from destruction or defamation.

As a follower of Jesus my life has been profoundly impacted by the incredible power found in the foundational creative moments in the story of creation. The creator of heaven and earth (Gen 14:19), the Lord our Maker (Ps 95:6) releases his power in a creative brilliance like no human hand has ever done. He is the author of Life, what he has created is his own.

Genesis chapter one ends with these words, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." God, the creator of all things was completely satisfied that all created things were very good. Can you imagine for a moment the picture this would have been?

Free from the curse of sin and the world of change that was to come, this moment in time is the benchmark of perfection; the measure for all things good; the masterpiece in the life of the creator that shows his true intent and purpose for all created things, free from destruction and defamation. In many respects this was the fixed moment in time when the "copyright stamp" was issued to the creator of all things that were very good.

Fast forward from this incredible moment in time to here and now. How far have we as individuals and societies broken the bounds of the original copyright owned by the creator of the world? Is it even possible to hold a mirror to this original masterpiece and see any resemblance of a true reflection?

There are some who say that God is dead, that we are way past the lifetime plus 70 years of protection that in essence guard against the change of all that he called his own. The incredible message of the Bible says otherwise, God is very much alive and active through the work of the Holy Spirit and his Word in our lives. The writer of Hebrews records these words, "For the word of God is alive and active." (4:12).

God is alive! As the original creator of all things good he still holds the copyright on life. Like a blanket, this covers all that lives over land and sea and most significantly the pinnacle of creation, his people.

With a seemingly endless array of influence and opinion, we (myself included) have taken the liberty of twisting the likes of this original creation into something that we think is better. From the way we steward the resources given to us through the earth beneath our feet to the way we identify ourselves among one another we have appropriated the original author's copyright.

One of the most incredible and amazing things about the author of life, the God who loves us, is his power and grace to forgive us for what we have done. There will come a day when all that was very good will be restored by the hand of the creator. God's written word to us (the Bible) is the guide to that incredible restoration. It was given to us to be the inspiration to preserve and protect all that is rightfully his.