

PORTRAIT OF GODLY BEAUTY

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Godly beauty is best understood in light of biblical truth rather than cultural fads. It is rightly perceived only in reference to God who is the very source of all things beautiful (Colossians 1:16). Scripturally, physical beauty is not intended to point women to themselves as a means of confidence and security (Philippians 3:3), but to God who designed all things for his own glory (Colossians 1:16), and in whom true security alone is found (Isaiah 26:3).

Godly beauty finds its meaning in the very person of God. He intricately formed man and woman in His own image (Genesis 1:27), and it is from His image that human beauty emerges. When women consider their own appearance, it should serve as an intimate reminder of their Creator since “his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:19-20). As such, their beauty and their desire to be beautiful should serve as an occasion to remember and worship their eternal Creator.

Godly beauty is evidenced in women not by an emphasis on outward appearance alone, but by the hidden person of the heart. This is most clearly seen in the “imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is precious” (1 Peter 3:4). In their efforts to reflect genuine beauty, women should begin by seeking to imitate the person of Jesus Christ by loving God with all their hearts, souls, and minds and by loving others as themselves (Matthew 22:37-40).

Godly beauty should always seek the glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31). This is far different than cultural norms that use beauty as a way to idolize humanity, therefore worshiping and serving the creature rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25). For the married woman, God’s glory is realized as she seeks to utilize her beauty to love and bless her husband (Song of Solomon 8). For the engaged or single woman, God’s glory is realized as she functions in her beauty as one whose body belongs to Christ (1 Corinthians 6:15), serving also as the sacred temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Godly beauty finds its apex in God’s redemptive work as witnessed in the purity and holiness he offers His Bride (Revelation 21:9) through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Physical means to acquire beauty is simply a shadow of the beauty God is personally accomplishing in His Bride, the Church, as He prepares her for eternity by sanctifying her, “having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:26-27). Unlike the flower that fades or the grass that withers (1 Peter 1:24), this beauty, being intricately shaped by the love of God, will blossom and thrive (in bodily form) for all eternity (1 Corinthians 15:50-58).