



Lesson 6

True Beauty

“Beauty is only skin deep.”

“Pretty is as pretty does.”

There are many things that the world says about beauty. Magazines, books, music and movies attempt to define it. Fashion attempts to improve upon it. Makeup tries to enhance it. Salons try to sell it. Our world is obsessed with “beautiful” as though it is something you can purchase and be proud of owning it. As is often the case, the world has things backward. Let’s take a look at how God defines beauty, because His word is TRUTH (Ps.119:160; Jn. 17:17). We can TRUST that His definition will be of benefit to each one of us (Deut. 6:24).

Don’t forget to be filling out your STUDY BUILDERS as we go along!

Start with a basic definition of BEAUTY.

Beauty [byoo-tee]

1. The quality present in a thing or person that gives intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to the mind, whether arising from sensory manifestations (as shape, color, sound, etc.), a meaningful design or pattern, or something else (as a personality in which high spiritual qualities are manifest).
(from www.dictionary.com)

Let’s begin with some things that are not beautiful.

Read Matthew 23:27-28.

1. What was wrong with the Scribes and Pharisees?

2. How does Jesus describe them?

3. Write Luke 6:43-45 here.

Read Mark 7:14-23.

4. What proceeds out of the heart of men? (12 things)

5. Let's make sure that we know what some of those words mean:

Define:

Covetousness –

Sensuality (lewdness) –

Envy (evil eye) –

Pride –

Foolishness –

Let's think about our physical beauty and the things we do to have it. Do you think it's possible for you to be guilty of the above sins in regards to your beauty? Can you be greedy about the clothes you wear? What about in how many outfits you have; wanting an outfit that another

girl has, but not wanting to be seen as wearing the same things? Can you be envious of others? Can you be guilty of wanting to MAKE others envious? Be prepared to talk about specific situations that would fall into those listed sins when you come to class. This way we can all be prepared of things to AVOID.

6. Explain what Proverbs 11:22 means.

Let's look at an example of physical beauty used for evil purposes.

Read 2 Kings 9.

7. What mission did God give to Jehu? (verse 7-10)

Jehu is on a rampage – he is striking people down right and left.

8. In verse 30, how does Jezebel respond to the threat of the coming new king of Israel?

(We will talk about her more later on, but for now, look up what the name Jezebel means – interesting don't you think?)

Read Ezekiel 16:11-16

9. Who had made Jerusalem beautiful and a place famous among the nations? 10. How did Jerusalem respond with the gifts God had given her? (verse 15-16)

11. In Ezekiel 23:40-41 how had these people used wealthy clothes and makeup?

We can see that things like clothes, jewelry, and makeup were further indicators of God's blessings on His people. The people unfortunately then began to think that their "beauty" was of their own doing! We must be wary of following in their footsteps (Hebrews 4:11).

12. In Jeremiah 4:30, Jeremiah describes how the nation will try to cover up its destruction. What illustration does he use to make the point?



Now let's look at what God sees as beautiful!

Read Genesis 1:31.

13. God made Eve (and everything else) and it was _____. (two words)

14. In Genesis 2:21-25 we told of how God created Eve. From these verses, what are we told about her physical appearance?

Read Jeremiah 18:4-11; Isaiah 61:10

15. Who makes you beautiful (a good thing) – you or God?

16. In Proverbs 20:15, what is a precious jewel?

17. In Romans 10:15; who are said to have "beautiful" feet and what does that mean?

18. How did holy women adorn themselves in former times, according to 1 Peter 3:4-5?

19. What is "precious" in the sight of God? (1 Peter 3:4)

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-11.

20. Paul teaches Timothy how to teach women to "adorn themselves". How is the apparel described?

21. In verse 11, it says, this is proper (apparel) for who?

These verses CONNECT what you WEAR with HOW you BEHAVE or WHAT you DO. Let's look at how people were IDENTIFIED by the CLOTHING they wore.

Read Genesis 38:14, 15

22. Notice two things here –

a. Tamar took off her what? (verse 14)

b. Tamar put on what and this made her look like what? (verse 15)

Read 2 Samuel 13:18.

23. What did Tamar wear that identified her separate from other women?

It is not wrong that people associate a look with a behavior – it's just a fact that they will. You must do what you can to NOT be mistaken for the wrong thing. You are in control of how people see you, most of the time. "First impressions are everything." There's a reason that people say that. What someone SEES when they first meet you is a huge part of what they will THINK about you when they walk away. What IMPRESSION do you want to leave?

As a reminder from our lesson about AUTHORITY –

24. According to Isaiah 29:16, who tells whom what to do?

25. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, if you are a Christian, who does your body belong to?

Does that seem contradictory to the cry of the world that abortion is not murder because a woman can do with her body whatever she wants?

26. Does Romans 6:12, 13 say that it's ok to sin occasionally, because we "just can't help it, it's natural"?

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

27. After reading these verses, how much concern do you think God wants you to have about your hair, your face, or your clothes?

The verses are talking about God providing for your NEEDS. Do we sometimes put "wants" into the "needs" category? What should we do instead?

There are so many verses we could look at that describe just how God wants us to be. In the following list, write next to each verse what it is that would make us "beautiful" as God would have us to be.

A. John 15:4

B. Romans 8:9-11

- C. Ephesians 5:15
- D. Philippians 2:5
- E. Colossians 1:10
- F. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- G. Hebrews 13:20-21
- H. 2 John 6
- I. 3 John 3
- J. 2 Peter 3:18

Conclusion:

God's definition of beauty is FAR DEEPER than ANYTHING the world tries to sell to us. There may be appreciation for the way something looks, but this isn't the beauty that God wants you to be SEEKING. He's given us the added benefits of plants that can be made into wonderful fabrics or dyes. He's shown man the beauty of refined gold and silver. But He NEVER gave us those things to bring GLORY to OURSELVES. They are to bring glory to HIM. When we forget THAT – we've lost that TRUE BEAUTY that we were SEEKING already.

So, what do you think? Does it matter why you wear makeup, or how much? Is it important that you choose clothing that goes further than what the world thinks is modest? How much of YOU are you trying to show and how much of HIM?

Study Builders

Use this page to note all the verses from the lesson into one or more of the categories.

<p><i>In Manner of Life In Purity</i></p>	<p><i>In Word</i></p>
<p><i>In Love</i></p>	<p><i>In Faith</i></p>

Additional Notes: