

# The Secrets of True Beauty

Mother's Day 2015

*Pastor Jason Dennett's notes*

Today is Mothers' Day, however, the topic of Motherhood isn't always an easy one to discuss:

- *for some, motherhood is **an accident**, and not always a welcome one;*
- *for some, biological motherhood **isn't possible**;*
- *for some, mothers **weren't all that nice**;*
- *for some, motherhood, is very difficult, challenging, and **perhaps unenjoyable at times!***
- Nonetheless, no one in the entire family deserves a special day all to herself more than today's Mom. A cartoon once showed a psychologist talking to his patient: **"Let's see,"** he said, **"You spend 50 percent of your energy on your job, 50 percent on your husband and 50 percent on your children.... I think I can see your problem!"**

**HOMEWORK for HUSBANDS: Make a list of 31 things your mother/wife does for you and the family** which you seldom thank her for. Make a point of thanking her specifically for one on each day of the coming month. On each day of the following month pay her a new compliment on one of her good attitudes, character qualities, habits or talents. And be prepared for a better relationship than you've enjoyed in quite a while.

**1 Pet 3:3-6 NLT** - *"Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They put their trust in God and accepted the authority of their husbands. For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do."*

## **SOME STATISTICS ABOUT "BEAUTY" AND "BODY IMAGE"...**

- **"Body image"** is the way that someone perceives their body and assumes that others perceive them. This image is often affected by

- family, friends, social pressure and the media.
- Body image is closely linked to **self-esteem**. Low self-esteem in adolescents can lead to eating disorders, early sexual activity, substance use and suicidal thoughts.
  - People who are unhappy with their bodies, may develop **eating disorders** that may include fasting, constant dieting, or bingeing and purging. **95% of people** with eating disorders are between the ages of 12 and 25.
  - Studies show that the more **reality television** a woman watches, the more likely she is to find appearance important...**58% of college-aged** women feel pressured to be a certain weight.
  - Approximately **91% of women are unhappy** with their bodies and resort to dieting to achieve their ideal body shape. Unfortunately, only **5% of women** naturally possess the body type often portrayed by the media
  - In a survey, more than **40% of women** are considering cosmetic surgery in the future.

**Even the people in the Bible Times of the Old Testament were interested in "Beauty Treatments"...**

**Esther 2:7-12 NLT** - "This man (Mordecai) had a **very beautiful** and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther...Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king's harem at the fortress of Susa and placed in Hegai's care. Hegai was very impressed with Esther and treated her kindly. He quickly ordered a special menu for her and provided her with **beauty treatments**... Before each young woman was taken to the king's bed, she was given the prescribed twelve months of **beauty treatments** - six months with oil of myrrh, followed by six months with special perfumes and ointments. When it was time for her to go to the king's palace, she was given her choice of whatever clothing or jewelry she wanted to take from the harem."

- I. The Inferiority of **OUTWARD BEAUTY** (v.3)
- II. The Supremacy of **INWARD BEAUTY** (v.4-7)
  - a. Godly Reverence - thru **Adoration!**
  - b. Marital Respect - thru **Submission!**

*I. The Inferiority of **OUTWARD BEAUTY** (v.3)*

**"Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes."**

- **OUTWARD BEAUTY, isn't prized much in the Scriptures:**

**Prov 11:22** - "A beautiful woman who lacks discretion is like a gold

ring in a pig's snout."

**Prov 31:30,31** - "Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last.."

**1 Peter 1:24,25** - "As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever."

**Isaiah 53:2,3** - "My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected.."

- The Lord looks at "beauty" VERY differently than we do:

**Matt 23:27-28** - "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs - beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness."

**1 Sam 16:7** - "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

## II. The Supremacy of INWARD BEAUTY (v.4-7)

**"You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful."**

- An ad appeared in a newspaper that read: "Farmer wants to marry woman, 35, with tractor. Send picture of tractor."
- "The Lord prefers common-looking people. That is the reason he made so many of them." - **Abraham Lincoln**
- The preacher Rufus Jones was speaking of the importance of having a radiant countenance. After his address, a woman "with an almost unbelievably plain face" came up and asked him what he would do if he had a face like hers. He replied, "While I have troubles of my own of that kind, I've discovered that if you light it up from within, any old face you have is good enough." - **Our Daily Bread**
- True INNER BEAUTY, in God's eyes, is highly prized and recognized in the Scriptures..
  - **Isaiah 52:7** - The Beauty of Witnesses of the Gospel..

- *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!"*
- **Isaiah 60:15 - The Future Spiritual Beauty of Israel..**
- *"Though you were once despised and hated, with no one traveling through you, I will make you beautiful forever, a joy to all generations."*
- **Revelation 21:2 - The Future Spiritual Beauty of the Heavenly City..**
- *And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*
- **Prov 31:30,31 - The Present Spiritual Beauty of a Godly Woman..**
- *"Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done."*
- **a. Godly Reverence - Adoration! - "They put their trust in God.."**
- *ἐλπίζω or "elpizō" meaning "to hope in someone, to trust in them, to wait expectantly for good"*
- *Mary, the wife of Joseph, and the mother of Jesus, is a great example of hoping and trusting in the Lord!*
- *"I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the loving God, who was born of the promise to a virgin named Mary..I believe in the love Mary gave her son, that caused her to follow him in his ministry and stand by his cross as he died. I believe in the love of all mothers, and its importance in the lives of the children, they bear. It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. A mother's love closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity. I believe that this love of mothers, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a dark reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next. And I believe that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a mother who lets this greater love flow through her to her child, blessing the world with the tenderness of her touch and the tears of of her joy." - John Killinger*

**Luke 1:26-38** NLT - *"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a **virgin named Mary**. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a*

descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" 29 **Confused and disturbed**, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "**Don't be afraid, Mary**," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" 34 Mary asked the angel, "**But how can this happen? I am a virgin.**" 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God....37 For nothing is impossible with God." 38 Mary responded, "**I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.**" And then the angel left her."

- Mothers, continue to cultivate your INNER BEAUTY by cultivating a life of **TRUST & CONFIDENCE** in the Lord!

- Your Reading...Romans 10:17
- Your Praying...1 Peter 5:7
- Your Walking...Proverbs 3:5,6

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- b. Marital **Respect** - Submission! - "**..and accepted the authority of their husbands.**"

- **ὑποτάσσω** or "**hypotassō**" meaning "to arrange oneself under, to submit, to stay in rank under your leader"
- Sarah, the wife of Abraham is a great example of submission.
- Peter tells us later in verse 6 - "For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do."

**Genesis 18:1-14 NLT** - "The LORD appeared again to Abraham near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day. 2 He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground. 3 "My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. 4 Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. 5 And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey." "All right," they said. "Do as you have said." 6 So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get three large

measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread." 7 Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. 8 When the food was ready, Abraham took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees. 9 "Where is Sarah, your wife?" the visitors asked. "She's inside the tent," Abraham replied. 10 Then one of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!" Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. 11 Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. 12 So she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when **my master--my husband--is also so old?**" 13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?'" 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

- Mothers, continue to cultivate your INNER BEAUTY by cultivating a life of **RESPECT & SUBMISSION** to your husband!
    - With your finances...Phil 4:19
    - With your children...Psalm 23
- With your family's direction...Jer 29:11