

A worthy woman, who can find? Her price is far above rubies....all her household are clothed in scarlet...her clothing is fine linen and purple...strength and dignity are her clothing....grace [charm] is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

--from Proverbs 31

The only really effective apologia for Christianity comes down to two arguments, namely, the saints the Church has produced and the art which has grown in her womb. Better witness is borne to the Lord by the splendor of holiness and art which have arisen in the community of believers than by the clever excuses which apologetics has come up with to justify the dark sides which, sadly, are so frequent in the Church's human history. If the Church is to continue to transform and humanize the world, how can she dispense with beauty in her liturgies, that beauty which is so closely linked with love and with the radiance of the Resurrection? No, Christians must not be too easily satisfied. They must make their Church into a place where beauty — and truth — is at home. Without this the world will become the first circle of hell.... A theologian who does not love art, poetry, music and nature can be dangerous. Blindness and deafness toward the beautiful are not incidental: they necessarily are reflected in his theology.

–Joseph Ratzinger

Being a female is a matter of birth,

Being a woman is a matter of age,

Being a lady is a matter of choice.

--unknown

“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

--St. Matthew 6:25-34 (NASB)

The French have never shared the
Anglo-American conviction that makes
the fashionable the opposite of the
serious.

--Susan Sontag

What about....?

TRC Women's Conversation: February 2017



...

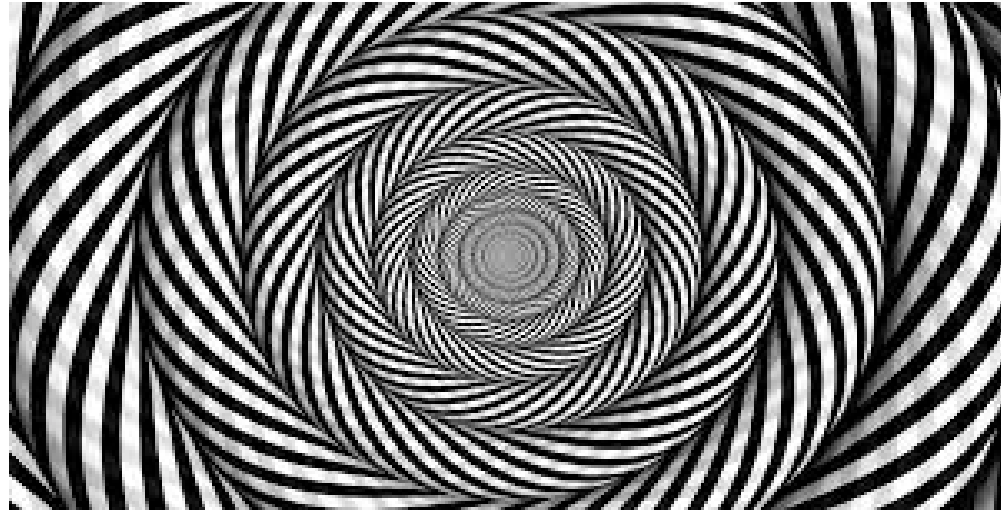
(Baggage, my friends...so much baggage)

...what others see?

#women
#identity
#clothes
#individual
#universal
#fabric
#color
#fit
#size
#shoes
#outwardappearance
#inwardheart
#beauty
#proverbs31
#whosays
#wisdom
#bodies
#brideofchrist
#daughtersoftheking

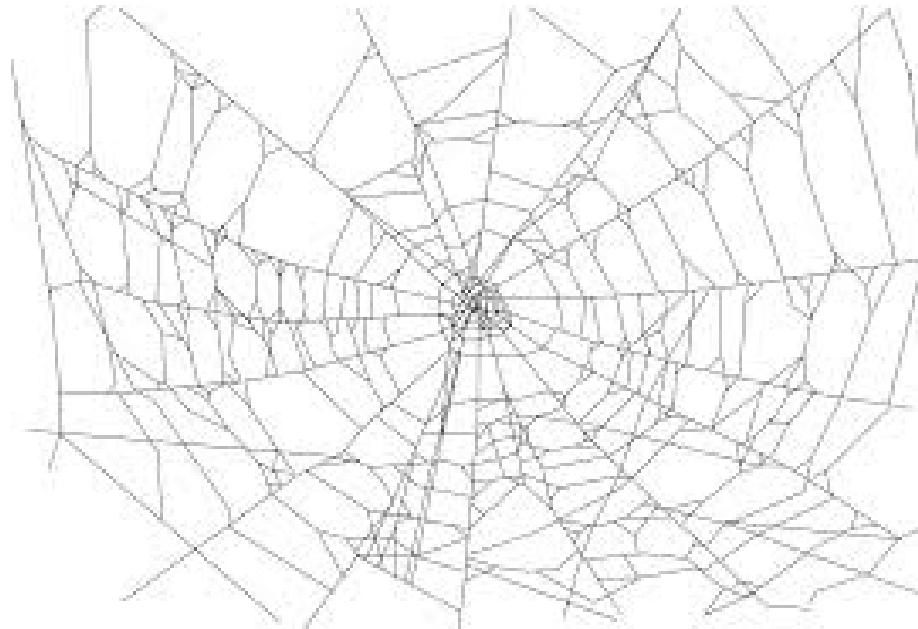
#whatcomesfirst
#doesitmatter
#whatismatter
#TRCswhatnottowear
#meaning
#communication
#intention
#figleaves
#clothedinscarlet
#ethics
#culture
#color
#climate
#personality
#massproduced
#artisan
#natural
#unnatural
#art

#ideals
#fashion
#generalrevelation
#daughtersofeve
#historyandtime
#towhomdoubelong
#story
#holiness
#freedom
#libertytothecaptives
#liliesofthefield
#adornment
#grace



...angles

From which to look



...webs

Of overlapping threads



...suitcase

Proverbially needing to be unpacked



...a cake

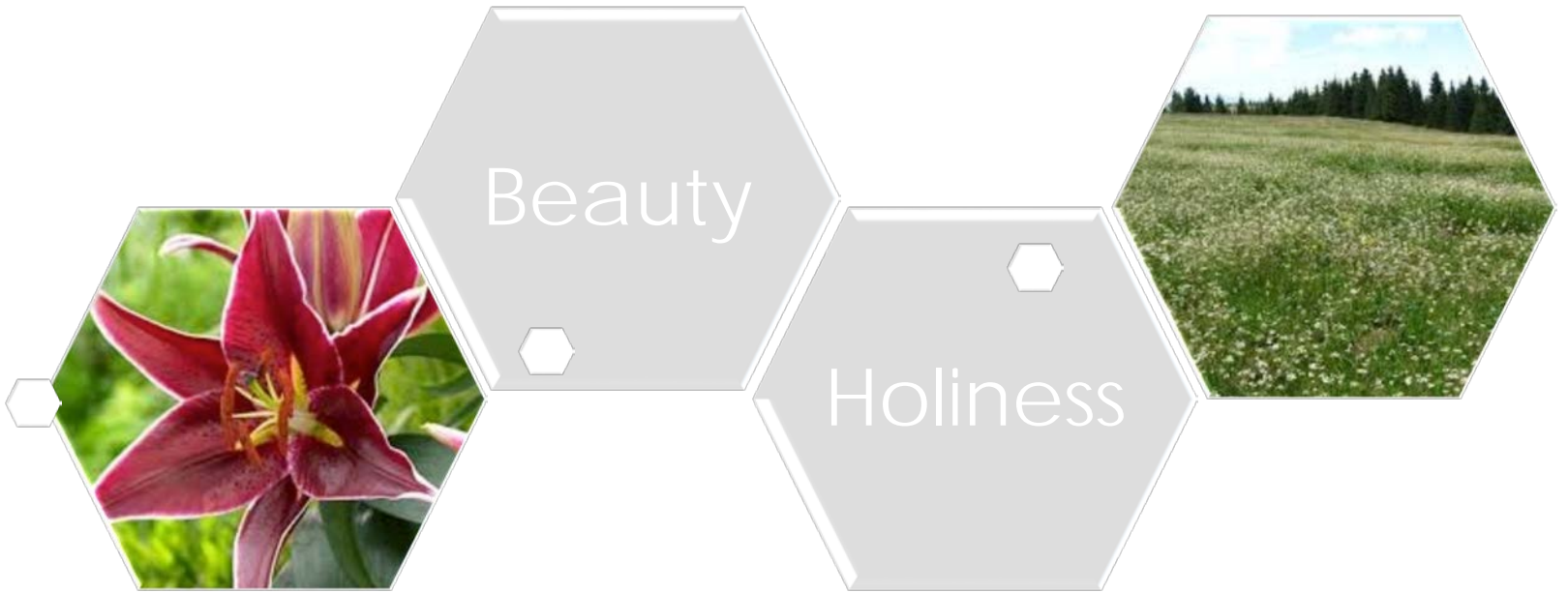
With layer after layer of goodness

...or a honeycomb



A case for BEAUTY

Or, why should we care?



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Lady Wisdom

Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your intimate friend... --Proverbs 7:4



חִכְמָה

skill (in war or technical), shrewdness,
wisdom



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--from Proverbs 31

To Whom do YOU Belong?

Identity is fundamental



Identity

family,
grades,
job,
education,
part of the country,
theological positions,
circle of friends,
height,
instagram account,
history,
marital status,
the fact of being a woman,
Facebook persona,
*any thing or person other than
Jesus Christ*

Pride

- Mine own hand has gotten me here
- Judgmental of others
- Dressing to demonstrate rightness

Insecurity

- Dressing to be noticed
- Dressing to be overlooked
- Dressing to flaunt your body
- Dressing to hide your body

“The Feminine”

It's all superfluous...



"Food & Clothes"

Necessity & Extravagance



**Some people
think luxury is
the opposite of
poverty. It is not.
It is the opposite
of vulgarity.**

Coco Chanel



[facebook.com/classy.woman022](https://www.facebook.com/classy.woman022)

The Lilies

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. –St. Matthew 6:28-29

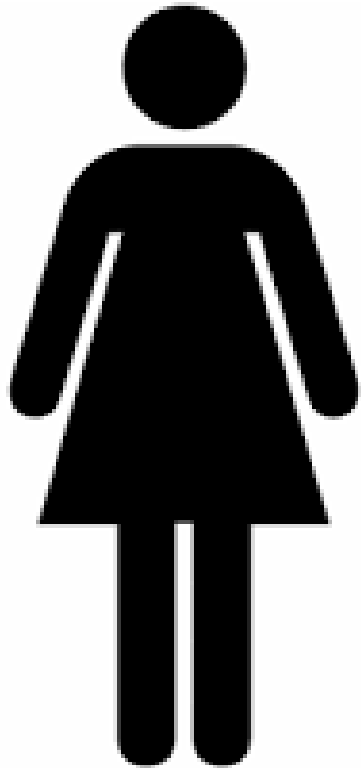


Philosophy: Universal & Particular

Universal: Woman

Particular: Brown hair, 5'8", blue eyes, freckles...

Woman / women



Ideal / incarnation

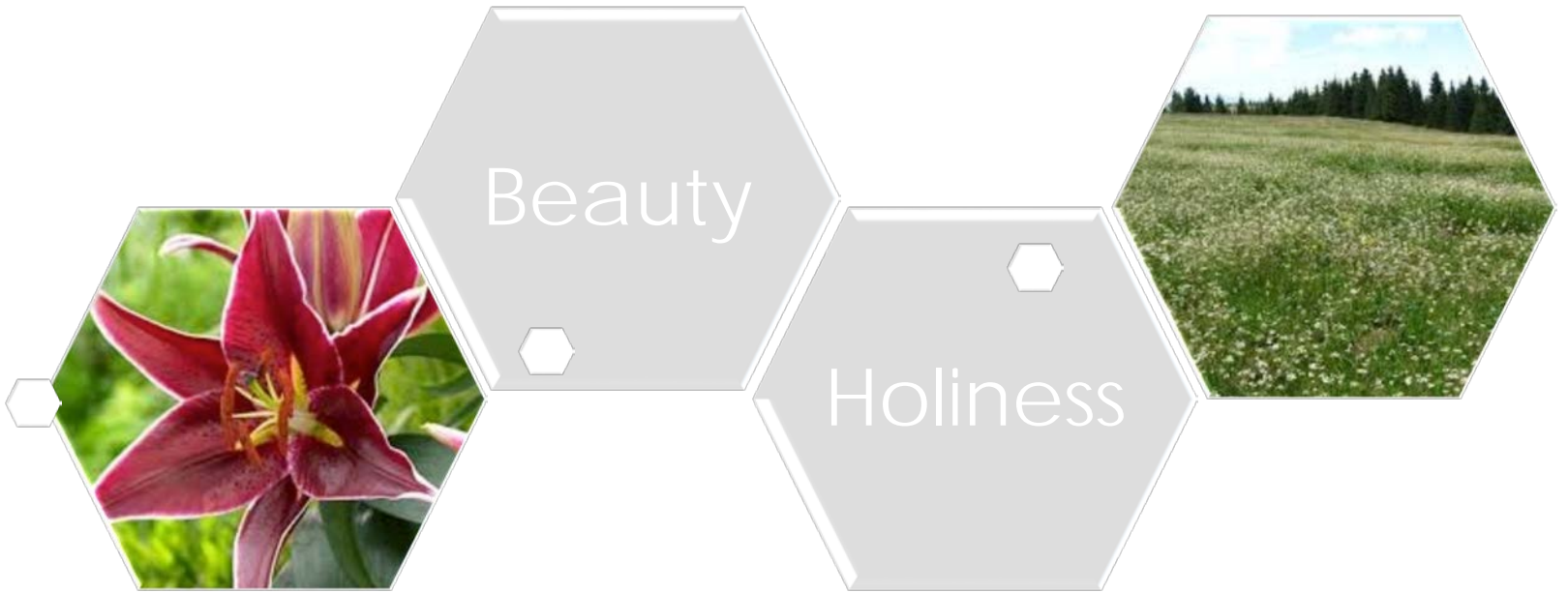


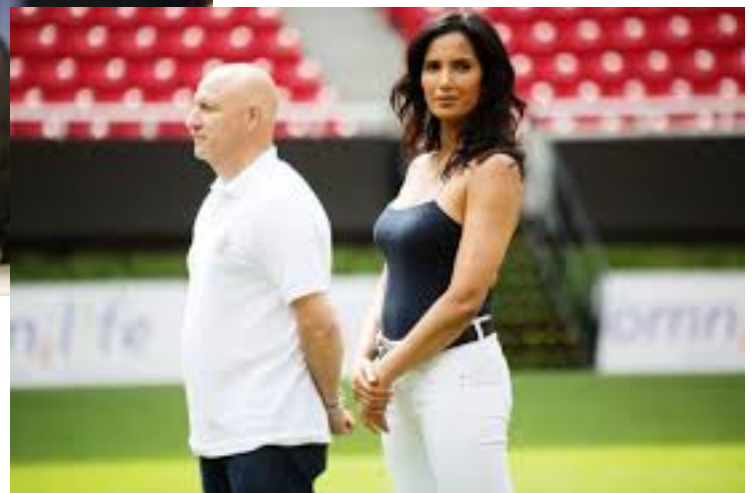
Foot / shoe



Circling around again: BEAUTY

Or, beauty as taste







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Round 2: Wisdom

Rules & Christian Liberty



Round 2 Identity

More visuals



WHAT NOT TO WEAR



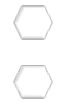


WHAT NO HOWEA



“ M ”

“ [Bond], I think you’re a sexist, misogynist dinosaur...”



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