

True Beauty



Getting Started

What is beautiful by the world's standard? What do you think is beautiful by God's standard?

God made an amazingly beautiful world. He created us in his image, so we know we are beautiful in his eyes. But God wants our hearts and minds to be beautiful, too. Most people try to be beautiful—on the outside. And we love to look at beautiful things, like pictures of models and movie stars. But how can we work on our inner beauty? How can we focus on the inner beauty we see in others, rather than how they look?

Improving Your Vocabulary

reveal (v) - to show something that has been hidden

announce (v) - to tell everyone; to make public

idol (n) - something that is worshiped because it represents a god; a false god

majesty (n) - authority, power and greatness; a name used for a king or queen

decay (v) - to rot; to fall apart and turn to dust

tremendous (adj) - large, powerful, awesome or excellent

eternal (adj) - lasting forever

Reading God's Word

Psalm 19:1-4

1 How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what he has done!

2 Each day announces it to the following day; each night repeats it to the next.

3 No speech or words are used, no sound is heard; **4** yet their message goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 96:5-6

5 The gods of all other nations are only idols, but the Lord created the heavens.

6 Glory and majesty surround him; power and beauty fill his Temple.

1 Samuel 16:7

I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. **17** And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. **18** For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever.

1 Peter 3:4

4 Your beauty should consist of your true inner self, the ageless beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of the greatest value in God's sight.

For further study, see Genesis 1 and 2:1-9; 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 1:23-25.

Taking a Closer Look

1. What is the "message" that "goes out to all the world"? (Psalm 19:1-4)

2. What do you think the beauty and glory of nature tell us about God?

3. Psalm 96:5 says other gods are all idols. Can beauty become like a god or an idol to us? How?

4. How does God judge us? How should we judge others? (1 Samuel 16:7)

5. What happens to physical beauty? What happens to our spirit?
(2 Corinthians 4:16)

6. What "unseen" things should we fix our attention on? (2 Corinthians 4:18)

7. What kind of beauty lasts forever? (1 Peter 3:4)

Taking Action

1. What kind of qualities do you think a person with inner beauty should have?
How can we develop these qualities?
2. In the world's eyes, only certain people are beautiful. In God's eyes, every person is beautiful. How can we see ourselves as God sees us? How can we see other people as God sees them?

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Review the Vocabulary

Discuss your answers to the following questions with a classmate.

1. What kinds of things can become **idols**, or false gods?
2. What kinds of things will **decay**?
3. What kinds of things are **eternal**?
4. What is something **tremendous**?
5. What is something that we should **announce** to everyone?



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