

Pervert Exposed - Part 2

Last week I started this series "Pervert Exposed" looking at the ways that satan perverts sex, marriage, and the rainbow which are all things that God created for good.

satan is a liar, he is a manipulator, he is a deceiver. And satan is unable to create....he doesn't have the ability. This is why he perverts the things of God. He has to take good things and somehow try to twist and turn them in a way to provoke sin.....(you realize that's all he can do? he can provoke you, but you make the choice to sin) satan has to have the good things of God to pervert. he depends on God's goodness even in rebelling against it.

Beauty -

satan perverts beauty in ways that make most people either vain or insecure. Through tv and magazines we are told what is beautiful and what is not, and even that changes based on who is popular and what the current trends are.

Today the word beauty or beautiful is commonly used imply that someone is hot or sexually attractive. This is satan's perversion of beauty that the Lord created for good.

What is beauty?

dictionary - the quality present in a thing or person that gives intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to the mind

webster's 1828 - beauty consists in whatever pleases the eye of the beholder, whether in the human body, in a tree, in a landscape, or in any other object.

1 Peter 3:3-4 (NLT)

3 Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. 4 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.

In this verse, Peter is specifically speaking to women, but guys don't for a second disregard it or think it doesn't apply to you. It's not only women who struggle with this issue.

Women tend to spend more time worrying about their appearance, they gotta get their makeup right, their hair right, clothes feel right but don't look right or they look right but don't feel right.....but guys also worry about appearance on some level. You men probably don't stand in front of the mirror wondering if those jeans make your butt look big, but you surely have other issues.....hair is thin or receding or both, weight gain, if you can pull off a flat bill hat or you need to bend it....you've got something!

For me, it's my belly, it keeps getting bigger, I have to put on a shirt and make sure it's not too tight around my belly, because obviously I don't want this to be what stands out when people see me. That is an image issue, it has to do with how people see me. It's something I have the power to change (exercise and diet) but it's hard....I LOVE food!

So we are talking about beauty....you know beauty actually applies to guys too? We can have qualities present that may give someone else deep satisfaction to the mind, we can be pleasing to the eyes...

One time Kristi and I were visiting someone in the hospital in Springfield. On the way back I stop at a gas station to get a drink and as I approach the counter, placing the drink up there, the lady running the register says "is that all for you pretty?" I said "yeah...." and slowly walked backwards toward the door.....I don't know if she just got out of the big house or what.....

On another occasion a kid in my daughter's class saw me when the bus pulled in the driveway and he said "is that your dad? He's cute..... don't tell him I said that" Now I hope that boy was joking, if not he needs deliverance.

Then for my anniversary, my amazing wife got me this shirt (It says "Trophy Husband"). I think that means I'm beautiful....

See, beauty applies to guys!

But whether male or female, beauty OR what you perceive to be a lack of beauty can ruin your day or even life if you let it.

Imagine a woman looks in the mirror and sees all the reasons that she does not meet the world's different definitions of beauty. She doesn't have the right nose, or hair, she has wrinkles, her lips aren't plump and full, she has that mole (which sometimes is in and sometimes is out), she has freckles or doesn't have freckles, doesn't have dimples.....

By her viewing these things as "defects" she is letting society judge her. She can't possibly live up to society's standards of beauty, causing stress and depression.

Why can't this woman see herself for who she truly is? Because she has no internal self-image, no convictions of her own about the things that make her beautiful. This describes a woman who doesn't know who she is because she is waiting on society to tell her.

Then she blames God because of the way He made her. Questions Him about why she has this or doesn't have that. The issue is that she is comparing herself to other people and to the standard that PEOPLE have set....that is not the standard that GOD uses!

God made you beautiful because God doesn't make junk. He doesn't make ugly. He doesn't make second rate. He doesn't make worthless or not good enough. There are not just a select number of beautiful people in the world. Every person is a creation of God and every person is beautiful.

Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)

14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.

God made you beautiful.....these physical things that people beat themselves up over are the things that we can't change. If you don't like your face you can't just go get another. It's what God gave you. If you don't like your hair, I suppose you could get a wig but it's probably not going to be worth the trouble every day.

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3 Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. 4 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.

Peter said in v3 to not be concerned about the outward beauty....he didn't say don't care about it, he didn't say be a slob....he said don't be concerned, this means: don't be troubled, worried, or anxious about your outward appearance. It's not what should have your focus, it shouldn't make you upset or depressed if you don't live up to some person's standard (even if it's your own)

What you should focus on is the beauty that comes from within.....listen, some people are beautiful on the outside but straight up ugly on the inside. For that we do have a standard, it's here in 1 Peter chapter 3. The standard for beauty that does not fade....a gentle and quiet spirit.

That is precious to God, a gentle and quiet spirit.....

What does that mean? Does it mean that women should be quiet all the time? NO. Some women get kind of loud and excited.....that may be part of their personality.....they don't have to try and be something that they're not., that's not what Peter is teaching...

A gentle spirit is one that is humble, not thinking of themselves too highly.

Romans 12:3 (NLT)

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

This is humility, not thinking too much of yourself but recognizing who you are in Christ. Some men and women think they are “hot stuff” or that they are really somebody. Yes...even some Christians.....

But consider this, even the most beautiful people in the world, (beautiful by the world's standards), what have they done to accomplish this? God almighty created them, He made them that way....unless a plastic surgeon did it, which in that case their “beauty” is fake. What those people have done is ruin the true beauty that God created.

Instead we are to have humility, knowing that a creative God made us. Things we see as imperfections He sees as perfect. Who are we to criticize His art, His masterpiece?

So a gentle spirit is one that is humble, but it's also patient, and long-suffering. See a gentle spirit is not just being really kind and sensitive, it's knowing your identity in Christ, who He says you are, and it's being patient, waiting on God, even when it's hard, even when it's painful, even when you are annoyed, waiting.....and enduring!

This is precious to God. A gentle spirit, patient, longsuffering. (all are part of the fruit of the Spirit), He says that is beauty that doesn't fade

Peter also mentioned a quiet spirit. This does not mean silent! Not a silent spirit, unable to speak. Quiet means tranquil, free from commotion, calm, peaceful (another part of the fruit of the Spirit). As well as being unaffected by disturbing emotions!

This is what a person has when they are ok with the way God made them instead of trying to meet the world's impossible standard of beauty. When you grasp that identity of a son or daughter of the most high God, the only God, how He sees you.....it frees you from the torment of not being enough. You can understand true beauty!

Don't you want to be precious to God? a gentle and quiet spirit.....

People of all ages are trying to figure out who they are everyday and that's ok. You need to try and find out who you are, you need to know how God has gifted you. You do that by knowing Him, not by trying to figure out how you can be acceptable to the world. How is it that people desire to be different but they want to do it in a way that others approve of? Do you want to be different or the same?

Beauty is so much more than what a person looks like...

Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV)

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,
But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Physical beauty is passing...you can't keep up with Cosmo or GQ. Godliness is something that lasts. Having that gentle and quiet spirit, true beauty.

Relationships that are based on physical attraction are doomed from the beginning. When people marry of course they want to be in the relationship for the rest of their lives, but the physical beauty that attracted you at a young age will change over time. So that is a shallow and temporary thing to base a relationship on.

The star quarterback will someday be a wrinkled old man. The cheerleader will someday be a grandma in a rocker. Physical beauty fades. Not

I love my wife, I think she is beautiful, like most men in ministry...I married up several notches....but you know what I find more beautiful than anything? Her spirit, her passion for Jesus and her compassion for people. There is nothing more beautiful in any person.

What's more beautiful than hearing a child pray and talk to Jesus?

What's more beautiful than seeing 5-6 women surround a visiting woman at our prayer meeting who is crying and they just love her and pray for her?

What's more beautiful than a man treating his wife like a queen, like there is no person more important in his life?

What's more beautiful than hearing God's people sing to Him about how great He is?

Beauty is not defined by looks alone!

Attraction-

Another perversion of beauty is that God created it for attraction but satan has perverted it toward lust.

While physical beauty is not all there is to beauty, it does have some importance....attraction. Often for someone to get to know the true beauty of a person, it starts with physical attraction. There has to be something that draws the person of the opposite sex, it generates that initial interest.

But satan has perverted this attraction leading to sexual sin....

Proverbs 6:25 (NKJV)

Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

Men....stop looking at women like you are walking around in a meat market....We need to exercise self control (another fruit of the Spirit).....we need to have the mind of Christ, seeing women as our sisters

We need to make a covenant with our eyes like Job

Job 31:1 (NKJV)

31 "I have made a covenant with my eyes;
Why then should I look upon a young woman?"

When we look upon a woman with lust, we are playing right into satan's hands. It's not ok, it's not cool, it doesn't matter if the other ignorant men are doing it.....you are not ignorant, you have been informed!

Women.....stop dressing like you are looking for a one night stand. If you find pleasure in men ogling over you and staring at you, then you are being the devil's puppet! It's not just on the men to look away, it's on you to put them away.....buy a turtleneck

Really, why do people play this game with each other? Attraction is a good thing, God made it so people could connect. It ties into last week....intimacy is important in a marriage, that's difficult if there is NO physical attraction. But ladies need to dress modestly, have self respect. And men need to control their eyes, also having self respect and respect for someone's daughter, God's creation!

WORSHIP TEAM COME

I know that got a little rough there but it's true....we have a real adversary who is a liar and he is perverting these things of God to provoke God's people to sin....

As you leave here today, know that:

You are unique

You will never be successful trying to live up to the world's standards

You have to find the courage to be true to who God made you to be, even though it means being ugly in the world's eyes

True Beauty, true success comes from being true to yourself and allowing the unfading beauty of the character of Christ to reflect off you, renewing you day by day