

by Wayne Goff

...those who are beautiful **both** inside and out. Just because a person is physically attractive, does not mean he or she does not have a beautiful spirit! But you do have to take the time to learn the person to take note of the heart. It is a wonderful tribute to God to find one who is beautiful both to man and God!

In Proverbs 31, God exalts the woman who *"fears the Lord."* The godly woman **first** adorns herself *"in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, ... with good works"* (1 Tim. 2:9-10). The word *"modest"* comes from the Greek word **kosmios**, from which we get our English word *"cosmos"* and its meaning suggests beauty, orderliness, and well-arranged. Thus, the godly woman also displays her own well-arranged, orderly beauty. It is not gaudy, showy, nor *"over-the-top,"* but a beautiful reflection of the godly heart. Abraham's wife, Sarai, was *"a woman of beautiful countenance"* (Gen. 12:11) and yet Peter set her forth as a godly woman who had *"the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit"* (1 Pet. 3:6, then v. 4).

Sadly, some women I have known have mistakenly thought that to be seen as *godly*, they needed to appear *outwardly* as ugly as a tow sack! On the contrary, a godly woman carries herself with a grace and beauty that is reflected in her character and her clothing.

Young Men, What Do You See?

Young men, do you look for a young lady who possesses *"the incorruptible beauty"* of which the Bible speaks? Do you consider *seriously* that the woman you are dating might one day be your wife, and the mother of your children? Can you imagine the qualities needed to make your home life comfortable, godly, and well-arranged? Sadly, too many young men find out too late what are the really beautiful qualities of a potential mate.

"As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion" (Prov. 11:22).

"A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knows nothing" (Prov. 9:13).

"It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman" (Prov. 25:24).

"A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike" (Prov. 27:15).

Young Ladies, What Do You See?

Young ladies, there are many young men out there who will pursue your affections. Be sure you learn what is important to them *in their hearts*! Some young men *"court"* the object of their affection unto marriage, and then soon the *"honeymoon"* is over! Be sure you get to know the **person inside** well so you are not surprised, nor disappointed.

There was a beautiful, godly woman named Abigail (1 Sam. 25:3) who somehow married a man who *"was harsh and evil in his doings."* (I've often wondered **how** that could happen, but *sometimes* naiveté is to blame). She lived as godly a life as she could under adverse circumstances — and being married to Nabal nearly got her killed! Fortunately, Abigail intervened on behalf of her household, and was led to tell the truth about her husband: *"Please, let not my lord regard the scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him"* (1 Sam. 25:25). *"Nabal"* means *"fool."* Abigail's own *"good understanding"* (v. 3) saved her life. Wisdom is a thing to be treasured.

Young ladies, don't get caught marrying a *"Nabal"* just because he has a good job, a little money, a nice house, or good looks! Marry a man who will help you get to heaven.

"He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart" (Prov. 11:29).

"A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back" (Prov. 29:11).

"Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Prov. 29:20).

God forbid that you wake up one day and find yourself married to a fool! Better to use the wisdom of God's Word to see into a man's heart and make your choice from there.

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).