

WISDOM UNIVERSITY

PROVERBS 11:22

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Supermodel Bella Hadid has been declared the most beautiful woman in the world after she passed a science test that determines what constitutes the 'perfect face'. The test is called the Golden Ratio theory, which was originally used in Ancient Greece to decide who had "divine proportion," and then by Renaissance artists to create perfect works of art. Today, cosmetic surgeons have used the ratio to decide which woman is mathematically closest to physical perfection. It's based on a calculated measurement of the size and position of the eyes, eyebrows, nose, lips, chin and jaw. Among all the data collected, Bella Hadid ranked highest with a result of 94.35% of symmetry.

That's one way to measure beauty, but there are many other ways that would come up with different answers. For example, if you were to calculate it based on social media popularity, Kim Kardashian would probably come out top.

So, what is a beautiful woman? What makes for true beauty? There's really only one way to answer that question definitively, and that's by asking the only one who is perfectly beautiful and who therefore alone can set the standard for beauty, and that's God. The all-wise God reveals his answer to us through a Proverb from the wisest king.

It's important to ask because the desire to be beautiful, to be attractive is one of the most common and dominant longings in our lives. No matter what age we are, we put time, effort, and money into improving our appearance. Proverbs 11:22 supplies the right answer to this question and therefore saves us a ton of time, effort, and money.

CONTEXT

- **Preparation for Wisdom** (Proverbs 1:1-7)
- **Principles of Wisdom** (Proverbs 1:8-9:18)
- **Practice of Wisdom** (Proverbs 10:1-31-31)

Proverbs 11:16 contrasts a gracious woman who wins true honor with the graceless beauty who has no honor in 11:22.



Before we define beauty, let's define ugliness.



1. BE REPULSED BY THE UGLIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion (Proverbs 11:22).

The Picture

What's the most disgusting animal in the world? A pig would be in everybody's top three in any ugly animal contest. When we think of a pig, we think of ugly looks, ugly smell, ugly sounds, ugly eating, and ugly to touch. Our senses are overdosed with ugliness. The ugly pig gives us ugly feelings.

I want to tell you about a pig who, fed up with his ugly image, decided to re-brand himself. He didn't like being repulsive and longed to change his image. One day, while digging around in the dirt with his snout, he came across a gold ring. He picked it up with his teeth and decided to pierce his nose with it. Somehow or other, he managed to do that and appeared in the pig-sty next morning sporting his new look.

None of the other pigs saw it because they were busy still nosing around in the latest delivery of leftovers. But it was a family farm that was open to visitors and soon the first kids appeared. As usual, they started laughing at the filthy pigs and making vomiting noises.

Then it all went quiet. They had spotted the pig with the gold nose-ring and couldn't believe what they were seeing. The re-branded pig waited patiently for their applause and appreciation. And then it started, slowly at first, but growing louder and louder. The laughter was louder than ever and the vomiting sounds more violent than ever. The "beautiful pig" was the most bizarre and ludicrous animal they'd ever seen.

The Principle

That's the scene Solomon wants us to take in through all our senses. He wants us to see it, smell it, taste it, feel it, and hear it. He wants every one of our senses to feel how horrifyingly ugly and grotesquely absurd this shocking combination is. And then he comes in with the punchline. "So is a beautiful woman without discretion."

What? Are you serious, we say? Hold on, is that not an overstatement? You're exaggerating, right? Or you're a misogynist, aren't you? Nope. This is the inspired Word of God reflecting God's accurate assessment.

The principle is that **external beauty, whether male or female, without internal beauty, is an ugly, disgusting, and repulsive combination.** It's not saying that physical beauty is bad. No, not at all. God loves beauty and is the source of all beauty. It's saying that this combination of external beauty without internal beauty is as shockingly ugly and as grotesquely absurd as a pig with a gold nose-ring.



Let's take a closer look at why 'lacking discretion' is so ugly to God. It literally means to lack taste or the ability to tell the difference between flavors. This person may well have great taste when it comes to fashion and appearance. She can tell very quickly what looks good and what doesn't, but she has no moral or spiritual taste. She has no idea what's true or false, what's right or wrong, what's wise or foolish. She does not find holiness sweet and sin bitter. It all tastes the same to her.

Just as no gold nose-ring can beautify a pig, so no physical beauty can disguise amorality or immorality.

The Practice

What does this principle mean for our daily lives. How do we put it into practice?

APPLICATION

Contrast: Feel the shocking contrast between God's assessment of beauty and the world's. Movies, the media, and social media tell us that physical beauty is all that matters, and a person's character, morality, spirituality, wisdom, etc., is of no consequence whatsoever. In fact, often the more selfish and sensual a person is, the more they are admired and followed. Next time you see a glamorous Instagram post put this Instaproverb beside it for contrast. I was thinking, maybe I should try to draw this picture and put it on my bathroom mirror.

Confess. Confess how often you've followed the world's assessment and not God's when it comes to who you admire and who you want to be. Confess that you have prioritized physical appearance and what others think over spiritual character and what God thinks. Confess, "Beautiful God, I am an ugly pig that's trying to re-brand myself with a new image. Please forgive me and help me to see how ugly the world's standards are to you. Give me a new taste, an ability to discern between right and wrong. Change me from a pig to a princess (prince)."

IF APPEARANCE IS YOUR FOCUS
THEN GOD WILL BE OUT OF FOCUS



I don't want to be ugly.
How can I be beautiful?



2. BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD

The Picture

As is often the case with Proverbs, Solomon does not complete the picture. He paints one side of it graphically and vividly, but he leaves us to paint the other side ourselves. He throws a provocative image out there and says, "You understand that, so work out the rest!" I'm not going to do all your thinking for you. Use your own minds. Draw your own conclusions." He's posing a question to us: "If that's not true beauty, what is? If that's repulsive, what's attractive?" So, if you were an artist and you had to paint a picture that portrayed the opposite to that ugly picture, what would it look like?

I'm no artist, and have very few creative genes, so I'm sure you can do better than me. But here's my suggestion, my first draft, if you will. I'd draw a big beautiful ring, with its main jewel being spiritual wisdom. And it's kind of like a magic ring. Whoever puts it on, is transformed into the most beautiful person in the world. Here's the other strangely wonderful thing: every time someone puts it on, another ring appears.

The Principle

If that's the picture, what's the principle or truth from this picture? **Spiritual wisdom is astonishingly beautiful.** Moral taste, godly character, and spiritual insight are stunningly beautiful. Spiritual wisdom is the greatest beauty treatment ever. It can transform the ugliest person in the world into the most beautiful person in the world. It can turn a Jezebel into an Abigail (1 Sam 25:33). So how do I get it and what does it look like?

The Practice

APPLICATION

Praise our beautiful God. God not only defines beauty, he demonstrates it. We see God's glorious beauty most stunningly in Jesus. He had perfect moral character, and perfect spiritual wisdom. Spend time being stunned by his beauty and it will transform you (2 Cor. 3:18).

Look for God's beautifying work in you and others and praise him for that. And remember, God appreciates you too. He loves looking at your spiritual beauty and takes pleasure in it. When he sees it, he says, "You're so beautiful" (Song 4:9).

Pursue God's beauty. God has provided a beauty shop in his Church, and has gifted us the beautifying tools of the Bible, prayer, and fellowship. Every time we use them, we're taking another step towards the beauty which attracts God, adorns the Gospel, and lasts forever.

Pray, "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us" (Ps. 90:17), and watch God give you sensitive and accurate moral taste buds, insight into people's character and motives, and wisdom that people envy and ask for.

TRUE BEAUTY ISN'T SKIN-DEEP
IT'S SOUL-DEEP



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: Beautiful Jesus, I confess my ugliness and pray that you would share your beauty with me so that others can see your beauty.

FURTHER STUDY

Online Articles

- [The Most Attractive Quality in a Person](#)
- [God's Beauty for the Bored, Busy, and Depressed](#)
- [Real Beauty](#)
- [Female Beauty Matters](#)

Books

- [Jonathan Edwards on Beauty](#) by Owen Strachan
- [Redefining Beautiful](#) by Jenna Lucado

Discussion Questions

1. What are the world's standards of beauty?
2. Why do we long to be beautiful?
3. From the perspective of Proverbs 11:22, pick the most beautiful person (male or female) that you know and describe what makes them beautiful.
4. How can we grow in spiritual discernment?
5. How can you encourage someone in your life to become spiritually stunning?
6. What do you find so beautiful in Jesus and how can you emulate that?
7. What made Abigail (1 Samuel 25) so beautiful?

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