

Image Bearers of a Beautiful God:
A Biblical Perspective on Beauty and Self-image

- ❖ **9 out of 10** girls want to change at least one aspect of their physical appearance
- ❖ **Six out of 10** girls are so concerned with the way they look that they are holding back from participating in important life activities

- ❖ Only **4%** of women around the world consider themselves beautiful
- ❖ Only **11%** of girls globally are comfortable using the word beautiful to describe themselves

- ❖ **72%** of girls feel tremendous pressure to be beautiful
- ❖ **80%** of women agree that every woman has something about her that is beautiful, but do not see their own beauty

Women are less satisfied with their beauty than with almost every other dimension of life except their financial success.

Imago Dei: The Image of God

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the [a]sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

צֵלֶם *tselem* - a likeness, resemblance, representative figure, an idol, a graven image.

דְּמוּת *demuth* - like, in physical appearance, in the manner of, in similitude of, usually referring to a tangible and visible reproduction of something.

Woman's bodies were made for **worship**.

In our sinful nature we confuse
being like God with **being** God.

"I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well."

Psalms 139:14

"Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God."

1 Peter 3:3-4

The question must move from **how** we care about the way we look, to **why**.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

The struggle over body image is a **spiritual battle**.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

“He is the image of the invisible God...For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”

Colossians 1:15,19

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

תִּפְאָרָה **tipharah** - glory, honour, splendour

נֹעַם **noam** - favour, delight and pleasant.

Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.

But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.

All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him

Isaiah 53:1-6

He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

Isaiah 53:2b

The image of God describes how we are set apart from all of creation as **His Beloved**.