

**The American Idol Named “Appearance”
1 Peter 3:1-6**

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1. The reason we worship the god of “appearance” is because this idol tells us that to look good is better than being good.
 2. Let me qualify this; it is not wrong to look nice or to take care of our bodies.
 3. This morning we are going to ask, what does the Bible say about beauty and appearance?
- I. Defining the World’s View of Beauty.
- A. How do you know if you truly are a beautiful person?
 - B. Our beauty is not defined by our culture, but rather is defined by God.
 1. “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.” Proverbs 31:30
 2. “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.” Proverbs 11:22
- II. A Few Myths About the Worship of Appearance. Psalm 139:14, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”
- A. One myth is that our looks can keep mortality at bay.
 - B. Another myth is that outward appearance is the same thing as beauty.
 1. “Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” 1 Peter 3:3-4
- III. How Can We Pursue True Inner Beauty?
- A. It’s not wrong to look nice.
 1. It’s not wrong to care about our bodies, have a new set of clothes or new dress. It’s not wrong to go to the gym or run or jog.
 2. What’s wrong is for us to worship our bodies instead of offering our bodies as worship to God.
 3. Let me ask you to make three decisions this week about toppling the idol of appearance.
 - B. Decide to be a good steward of your body.
 1. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - C. Decide to not base your identity on your appearance.
 - D. Decide to make God look good.
 1. “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18