

English

The Foolishness of Trusting Outward Appearance

"Charm and grace are deceptive and beauty is vain [because it is not lasting], but a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30 Amplified



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In my lifetime I have met many men and women who look good on the outside, but as I got to know them, I found that some of them had great sorrow and pain in their lives. Others spent time and money on their outward appearance to cover up their insecurities and low self-esteem. While yet others looked good on the outside, their life was full of sin, and they lacked godly character.

I do thank God for the men, women and young people that I've met over the years whose outward appearance matches their godly character. I also know the sorrow and heartache that many men and women have experienced as the result of trusting outward appearance.

I see two warnings in this scripture. First, in time we all get older, so if we're attracted to the opposite sex because of their outward appearance, what will we do when their outward appearance changes? Second, beware of marrying someone because of outward appearance. This scripture tells us that charm and grace are deceptive and beauty is vain because it's not lasting. There are many people of both sexes who know how to play the deception game. They are great con-artists. They know how to be charming and gracious and put on a good outward appearance. It's all to control and manipulate people, so that they can get their own way. But just as this scripture tells us, it does not last. In time we see the truth. Sadly, many people do not see the truth until they've married and discover it's too late.

The husband of the Proverbs 31 lady praises her reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and her godly character qualities.

When I was a young believer, I asked God to help me build the fear of God and godly character into my life. God through His amazing grace was faithful to answer my prayer. Just like natural fruit, the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 takes time to develop. I didn't change overnight, however. It was daily reading and obedience to God's Word, with prayer, that produced fruit.

One year on my birthday in the presence of my family and friends, my husband told me he saw me as the Proverbs 31 lady. I give all praise to Jesus for the character changes that He has brought about in my life. It certainly wasn't by any works of mine.

Men, women, and young people listening, I encourage you to surrender your life to Jesus Christ and work with Him to build the fear of God and godly character into your life, so that it will bring glory to Jesus Christ. It's never too late. The same God who created the world is changing lives today. He wants to help you. All you have to do is humble yourself and cry out to Him. He'll be there for you just as He was for me.

— Janice McBride

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