

Beauty Will Save the World

The Beauty Marks of a Christian

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Colossians 3:12-17; I Peter 3:15

August 18, 2024

Introduction: Beauty is an intrinsic attribute of the Triune Godhead. The Lord is all-together beautiful, and He gives image-bearers the capacity to perceive beauty as well as reflect the artistry. The key to beauty, that is particularly perceivable and therefore revealed to Christians, is Jesus Himself. All beauty in the created world is from Him. Jesus is the source of all that is beautiful. If the church is called to be a little bit of heaven on earth. Then we are called to bring the beauty of heaven down to earth.

Prayer: Father, we submit ourselves to you and your holy word. Teach us through your words and guide us as we discuss those words together. Amen

Review: What did you discover as you asked God to point you toward the works He has prepared for you? How have you acted upon what you heard?

Read: Colossians 3:12-17 and I Peter 3:15

Discussion:

1. What words does Paul use to describe the identity God has given to those who are followers of Jesus in Colossians 3:12? How well do those words describe the way you view your relationship with God?
2. What is the source of the characteristics Paul asks us to clothe ourselves with in the last half of Col 3:12. Why is this important? (See also Galatians 5:22-25)
3. Colossians 3:13-17 gives a number of practical examples of postures believers are encouraged to adopt toward other believers. Identify at least three of these postures. How do each of these contribute to a healthy body of Christ?
4. Describe the differences you would expect to see in the church and in the world if believers acted as this Colossians passage describes. If you can, describe a time you were on the giving or receiving end of one of these from another believer. How did that impact you personally and the situation in which it took place?
5. How prepared are you to give a reason for the hope you have in Jesus? (I Peter 3:15)

Application: This week, prayerfully ask God for help in adopting the postures and practices described in these passages.

Prayer: Father, thank you for loving us dearly. Help us become more like Jesus. Amen.