

Journey With Hope Series

Facing Relationships With Reality: Real Beauty

1 Peter 3:1-4

Wednesday, April 9, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message *Facing Relationships with Reality: Real Beauty* ]  
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Thank you guys and a..., I trust for all of you who are here tonight that you've been able to genuinely just come in and pull apart and put your eyes on the Lord and worship Him and be encouraged and strengthened and a..., just really to have a, a time of community worship that would a..., renew and a..., refresh your life. I know that a..., these praise times are like that for me and I am so very thankful for them. You know today has been an absolutely incredible day because a..., if you've been anywhere near a television screen you've been able to see a..., history unfold in real time. A..., not history that is being made and then will be reviewed but the history that literally is happening before our very eyes and a..., this morning in particular at say between around 9 AM and 10 o'clock you were able to a..., have access to a news channel, you know that there was a drama that unfolded in the center square of the city of Baghdad a..., of just, I, I mean you couldn't have written a more incredible script. A..., earlier in the morning the first U.S. a..., forces, coalition forces moved into the city in a very visible fashion, right into the heart and, and openly there in the city and then a crowd began to gather and to surround a statue that had been put up in honor of Saddam Hussein's 64<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. It was a large park and it was a major statement of his power and authority and control and there in a moment of real life, real change took place in real time when a group of Iraqi people along with those American soldiers pulled that big statue down and it crashed into the ground. People began to jump and shout and cheer and they started throwin their shoes. I don't know if you saw that but shoes were everywhere. Kids were throwin their shoes and they were takin the images, those crumpled pieces of that image and a..., they were beating it around. It's just, just a little idea of what happened this morning, that was the picture of the statue. At one point an American soldier actually put a flag up over the face but very quickly he was told to get that off because we weren't lifting the American flag we were there for the Iraqi people. But I did think there was something symbolic about the color of red, white and blue over the face of terror. I thought that was pretty good and then a..., here of course the statue is falling and all over the country today they've been burning the images and getting rid of the reminders a..., and really for the first time for many of them tasting freedom and it has been absolutely fabulous to see and to

witness. And in a way like I think we've never really know it before real TV took on a new dimension today. Now, you know, before the war we had what was called real TV and a..., I don't know what you thought about most of what was real, a reality TV, but there certainly had been an abundance of that on our television sets over the last few weeks and the last few months and I think really until the war broke out we did not know what real time, real TV really was. But we've seen that, the drama of it, the pain of it, the anguish of it, the victories of it and it's been incredible. But if we did just turn our clocks and our calendars back about 20 or 25 days it seemed that everything in America was constantly being focused upon all of the new reality TV shows that were a..., making their way across the screens of America and in particular reality romance and reality relationship has been at the very apex of all of these different types of programs that have been on. In fact over the last a..., 18 months or so we've seen television shows like, *Meet My Folks*, where somebody takes their a..., perspective person to meet their parents and the parents interview them and over a time the parents try to select an appropriate mate for their child or what ever it may be. A..., there was *The Bachelor*, where one man had 25 women, now that's real and where a *Bachelorette*, [pause for slight congregation laughter] one woman had 25 men. There was *Joe Millionaire*, who had the romance and the reality intertwined as 20 women were taken to a castle over in Europe and made to believe that a guy who made \$19,000 a year was actually a multimillionaire and there was all the selection process and the big deal about the woman that he chose and then we all learned that they didn't spend much time together thereafter. And then there have been things like *Temptation Island*, *Temptation Island* being a place where couples travel to an exotic local to ta...test the strength of their relationship. You notice I'm reading all this. I've not watched all of these, I've just, actually I got my intern to go on the internet and I thought I was gonna have to give him clearance after he looked at all these sights so that he wouldn't impute his reputation. Right Chris? He did, he walked in my office the other day, handed it to me and said, "You know, you might need to say somthin because I've been on all these sites and I just know they probably don't want me doin that." [pause for slight congregation laughter] Well done, good and faithful servant. So anyway [pause for congregation laughter] and Alan Monk here in our administrative area, so I just wanna be sure you know that it...you know this was genuine research. But a..., in the, in the *Temptation Island* they go out to explore the relationships and what they end up doing is they get out there and they start swappin around to figure out whether or not they can get distracted by someone else in a exotic location. Then there's *Elinidate*, *Elinidate*'s where you outflirt, outsmart and outlast the competition of whit, charm and sex appeal on a date. And then a recent one that began in March called *Married By America*, where 5 singles a..., basically put their trust in the viewing American public to try to pick a selection for them and to match them up and a..., the people are hand picked by a..., a..., by these people and then ultimately they don't meet until a time of engagement. It's supposed to be a perfect match. And then there's the reality show called *Change Of Heart*, and a..., that's where you explore the possibilities of a...that are available when 2 people come to a crossroads in their relationship and try to figure

out whether they can stay together or come apart. And then there's the show called *Last Resort*, the Last Resort where real couples escape to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. Their relationship is at a breaking point and a... they try to figure out whether or not they can revive the passions of old and, a..., or whether they go home and go their separate ways and of course that one ends with this is not a game this is for real life. And it seems that everywhere we've turned over the last a..., 18 months or so this is all that we've heard, is about reality programming and the reality identity of all of what's happening in America. And in reality about the only thing that's real about it is that it is real people. Heh! It real if you believe in wrestling. You know, if an...you're kind of one of those kind of people it, it's probably real. [pause for slight congregation laughter] What makes it real is the fact that we don't have actors and actresses who are paid high salaries to do these things but we just have people who sorta would like to be in the limelight or high profile and who take advantage of an opportunity to try to play some kind of a stakes or a game on the relationships of their life and as I've watched this and then just sort of aware of what's happening I just kinda wanna look at the whole culture and say, why don't we just get real. Because if there's anything that this is not, it is not real. It sells time on television. It fascinates us with the affairs of others. It provides a..., voyeurism and, and sexual illusion. It provides all sorts of things but what it doesn't provide is the reality of real love and the reality of real relationships. And so as I come to 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 3 where Peter talks about relationships, it would seem to me that what Peter has to say to us is that he wants to address the subject of facing relationships with reality. I want you to know how to face the relationships of your life with reality. And what is it that makes a relationship real? Well, in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 3, we begin reading in verse 1 and Peter describes real relationships. He says:

*Likewise you wives...*

So let's just stop right there and realize that whatever he's saying is connected to the faults of others. We'll go back to those in a little while.

<sup>1</sup>But likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup>when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. <sup>3</sup>Do not let your beauty be the outward adorning of arranging the hair or wearing gold or the putting on of fine apparel—<sup>4</sup>but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. <sup>5</sup>For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup>as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and not...are not afraid with any terror. <sup>7</sup>And likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered. <sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one

*another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; <sup>9</sup>not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

How I thank God that this portion of Scripture ends with the word blessing because ultimately Peter says I want you to know how to be blessed in the relationships of your life. God has called you into relationships and the intent of those relationships is that if you follow Christ in the relationships of your life and fulfill the role of a Christ follower, the outcome of that in your life will be to find and to be a blessing. And so thinking about all of this reality stuff that's going on around us I felt like maybe beginning tonight I'd just kinda like to slow down a little bit here and talk about facing relationships with reality and actually over the next few weeks we're gonna talk about real beauty, real love and real respect, because I think those are issues that every person here is dealing with in the culture in which we live.

Now I wanna begin tonight by talking about real beauty because Peter takes some time to specifically address the issue of beauty, of appearance and obviously when we talk about beauty, we think about our, our appearance. In fact almost everything that I could read to you about these television shows ultimately relate to the attraction factor and the majority of that attraction is defined and described in the realm of appearance. That's how the world looks at relationships. How do I view you? How do you view me? And it's all based on a summary of who we are from the outside in, the kind of appearance that we bring, the kind of appeal that we have and obviously the American public is buying. It was interesting to learn that in the United States of America last year we spent over 20 billion, that with a "B" dollars on cosmetics, 20 billion. That's a lot of makeup and lipstick and cologne and hairspray and a lot of other things. 20 billion dollars! It's incredible to consider the amount of money that we spend just on lookin good. Now most of the world is just tryin to live. But we're livin looking good and we're spending our wo...our time and our energy and our effort to try to keep looking better. Now we're not talking about cosmetic surgeries and all the other things that may go along here, I'm just talkin about, just the stuff that we try to primp and pamper and powder our bodies with. 20 billion dollars! But I wanna ask you the question tonight, what is real beauty? Is it something you buy in a box? Is it something you put on from a jar? Is it something that you splash or something that you spray? And what is it that we find that makes the perfect attraction of a woman and the perfect attraction of a man? Because it would seem to me that almost all of these reality things are about trying to define who the perfect man, the perfect woman and perfect love is. Now, because of sources that I cannot divulge and special operational forces that I have in play I've been able to intercept a e-mail that's been going around with some of our single women here at a..., Prestonwood and I thought that I would share with you that several of them have united together in common understanding that they have defined what the perfect man is like. Now we know when it comes to appearance that for many, many years men have kinda been known for a perfect standard of measure for a woman. In fact I don't even have to really say it, since I have a

primarily adult audience and you understand, we know that women have been measured by men in numbers 36-24-36. But let me tell you that this very wise group of women at Prestonwood have said that the numbers of a perfect man are 80-20-104; 80 years old, 20 million in the bank and 104 degree temperature. [pause for congregation laughter] Well, I don't know what you think constitutes a perfect man or a perfect woman or how you measure it, but what I wanna do tonight, is I wanna tell you how the Bible measures real beauty. How the Bible weighs in on the subject of how we are to be and what we are to be and here is what the Scripture says. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 3, Peter says in verse 3:

*<sup>3</sup>Do not let your beauty be that outward adorning of arranging the hair, wearing gold or putting on a fine apparel—<sup>4</sup>but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit which is very precious in the sight of God.*

In those 2 verses speaking specifically to women Peter identifies the biblical pattern of what is the essence of real beauty. He **IDENTIFIES THE ESSENCE OF REAL BEAUTY** and he says it very clearly and very categorically. God's standard of measure for beauty, ladies, is not the hair, it's **THE HEART**. What God is interested in, in you, when you think about all the secrets of beauty, is that ultimately what God would find in you would be a beauty that will never fade because it would be a beauty that is found and kept in the heart. You see he very quickly and very wisely attaches to the fact that there is an ease in our culture as there was in that culture of getting caught up in the issues of style and of trends and of fashions and if it weren't true Peter wouldn't have addressed it. There was the fixing of the hair, there was the putting on of gold, there was the wearing of makeup, there were the fine cloths. Now of course always you have extremes and there have been those through the years who've tried to go to this passage of Scripture and use it as a proof text to say that, that we should not a..., fix our hair, that we shouldn't wear makeup and shouldn't put on a..., any type of a..., jewelry. But let me just tell you, if you're gonna go that far then don't wear any cloths either because he said putting on of apparel. Let's just make it real clear. If you're gonna be literal, let's be literal, you can't wear any cloths cause that what Peter said. Of course not. That's so silly. I cannot believe the way that people distort the intent of the Scripture and yet the Bible says clearly here that this is not a command against looking good. Nowhere does the Bible tell us that we shouldn't seek to present ourselves in a fashion that is appropriate and appealing, but very quickly the line is drawn between what the culture says and what God says and the culture says that all of your emphasis is on the 20 billion factor. And God says what I'm interested in is what's going on in your heart, because real beauty is not a matter of external features, it is a matter of internal character. That's why in the book of Proverbs, chapter 31 when you read about the virtues woman that was described there in the closing verses of that marvelous book of wisdom the Bible gets very near the end and this is what it says:

*<sup>30</sup>Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised.*

Charm is deceitful, beauty is passing, how many stories, horror stories have we seen of this in Hollywood? Where young starlets are taken in the years of their youth and ultimately many times in an innocence of success and are promoted and profiled and are used and abused and exploited and then finally as soon as they would begin to realize what's happening and how they can maximize the true gifts of their life they're discarded and put away because it's passed. You see that's just a part of the exploitation of the world in which we live and yet ladies and gentlemen this has always been God's way. And by the way, it's not just for women. God wants this kind of beauty in every one of us because God's standard of measure is different. < turn tape > ...Old Testament to the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel chapter 16 in verse 7, a... the nation of Israel was in the process of selecting a new king and God had sent the prophet Samuel to go and to be a part of the discovery and of the anointing of that new king and he went to all of the sons of Jesse, all of the men who were strong and handsome and powerful and forceful, impressive to see and he was just so amazed at all of these men but none of them were the right one. But in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16 and verse 17 **[should be 7]** the Lord said to Samuel:

*...“Do not look at his...”*

That is David's.

*“...appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; ~~for the Lord looks, excuse me, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.~~”*

God is interested in a beautiful heart. Again, let's look in the Old Testament one more time, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, I don't hear very many Bibles. Do you not know where Chronicles is? Just kinda get over there in those history books of the Old Testament. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles chapter 16, verse 9. Now I know I'm givin it to you the easy way, it's gonna come here on the screen in just a minute but just the same you still need to be able to use your Bible. I just do this so we can have one translation to see together. The Bible says:

*“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Him strong on behalf of those whose...”*

What?

*“...heart is loyal to Him...”*

*“...those whose heart is loyal to Him...”*

You see God is looking for people who understand that the essence of real beauty is character and not cosmetics and God uses through Peter the example of an Old Testament illustration, a woman by the name of Sarah. You see he says do not let the beauty back in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3, be the outward adorning arranging of hair, wearing of gold or putting on of cloths and

then he goes on to say in former times, holy women, many of them trusted God and adorned themselves being submissive to their husbands, as Sarah to Abraham. Now I would remind you that Sarah was a very beautiful woman, she really was, she was a very exquisite and a very attractive woman. The reason that I know that is that the Bible tells me in the book of Genesis, chapter 12, right after Abraham answered the call of God to get up and leave his homeland and leave his people and to follow the Lord the Bible says:

*That it came to pass...*

In verse 11 that...

*...when they were come and entering into Egypt that he said to Sarah his wife. "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.*

So when we get in the city, don't you dare tell them you're my wife cause they'll kill me so can have you, instead tell em you're my sister. [pause] And she did. She trusted her husband, who in fact lied to the Pharaoh and who lied to God and God exposed it and God made it right but she was a woman who had both a beautiful heart and had a beautiful face. Peter said, make no mistake about it, as pretty as she was on the outside, the thing that made her a woman of faith and a woman of God was what was going on, on the inside. You know what's the Bible's bottom line on this issue women? Don't turn heads, turn hearts, that's what God wants you to be, not a person who turns heads but who turns hearts. If you're turning heads you may be attracting the wrong thing, but if you're turning hearts you are being the right person. You see identifying the essence of beauty.

There's a second thing that we need to see and that is that we need to, since we're studying this passage **CLARIFY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUBMISSION**. Now, I can't get around the fact that as we are talking about real TV and all of the exploitation that you come back to the Bible and suddenly you begin to read about a woman who's being submissive to her husband and all of these things and I'm tellin you a lot of people today are goin, what in the world is that all about? Is that just something from an ancient world, an ancient culture? Well, absolutely not! The Bible says here in verse 1:

*...likewise...*

Literally, in the same way you wives be submissive to your own husbands. But I love the fact that, that likewise is connecting into the preceding passage. Now if you only read back as far as to verse 11, 18 what you will read is that it's connecting the role of the wife to the role of a servant or a slave and you might say well is that what the Bible is saying, is that she's supposed to be like a slave? No! Because we go all the way back to where we were last week beginning in verses 11 and 12 where the principle of submission was laid out for every Christian, that men and women alike were gonna be submissive to God. God just has different roles and relationships in doing that. In fact, because the Bible is such a perfect and precise book, when Peter said, in the same way, He didn't use

the word that meant just like the slave he used the word that meant, in the character of service. That's what I love about the Bible; nowhere do you ever read something that the Bible makes a mistake on the technicality of the words that are used. It's just like over in the book of John chapter 14, Jesus said it is good for you that I go away, because if I go I will send another here. Now in the Greek text there are two words for the word another; one is another of the same kind and the other is a num...nother of a different kind. "Heteros" we use that word, heterosexual, *heteros* is another of a different kind. "Allos" is another of the same kind and Jesus said when I go away I'm gonna to send you another and the word that's used there is another just like Myself. How incredible is that in the precision of Scripture that is affirms the Trinity, the identity and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in one little word that's used in John chapter 14. But in the same way, Peter, here does not connect the woman's role of submission to the role of a slave or of a servant but she...a...in, in the sense of that but to the heart of a servant and ultimately to the idea of being someone who is willing to honor the Lord in the relationship of the home and of the family. You see real relationships are not built and will not last in the atmosphere of selection, self-assertion and self indulgence. No matter how many times we play off the bachelor and the bachelorette, relationships don't last that way because they're all built on "Me" and no relationship will work if it has 2 people committed only to "Me." It only works when we have 2 people committed to God and to each other and it is when you fulfill that role of commitment to God and to each other that you end up being fulfilled in the process and that is the amazing thing and the wonderful thing about it. So when the Bible talks about submission, what is biblical submission for women? Well, biblical submission means that a woman is to see it as her role to serve God by doing 3 things for her husband, to compliment him, to cooperate with him and to complete him. That's how she was made that's how she was designed and when she does that it is not an issue of oppression it is an issue of obedience from the heart. What is it very clear that submission is not in the Bible? It is not subjection, it is not domination and it is not humiliation. Anybody who ever preaches or teaches otherwise is not preaching the Bible, because nowhere does the Bible ever second class women to men. In fact the amazing thing about the Bible is that it is the only book in the cultu...culture of its time that went upstream, elevated the role and the honor and the dignity of the women and even said that in Christ there's neither male nor female, bond or free. The Bible even compares it to the fact that just as Jesus the Son submitted Himself to the Father, so it is that the wife submits to her husband, but in the same concept is Jesus inferior to the Father? No!

*"For I and My Father are one."*

Is a woman inferior to her husband in a marriage? No! The Bible teaches just the opposite, but that her role is one of response and of encouragement in the relationship and that ultimately it is all about seeing your value before God and in the relationship that He has designed. So real beauty, the essence of real beauty is in the heart. The issue and the significance of submission is that it is, it is a reflection of that



heart that honors God in a relationship and then we...

**QUALIFY THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE**, qualify the importance of attitude because ultimately what God is getting at when it come to beauty, with women and with men, is that it's all about the attitude. If I could take everything I've try to say to you tonight, clear and unclear, and could put it to you in a sentence this is it;

**IT'S ATTITUDE, NOT APPEARANCE THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN REAL BEAUTY.**

It's attitude, not appearance that makes all the difference in real beauty, because, there are some people, some beautiful people who have some really ugly attitudes and it's attitude that adds beauty to your life. It is an attitude that begins in the heart, inner beauty, from the inside out, illuminating your life. It is the attitude that seeks obedience to God which means I have surrendered and have submitted to Him and will submit to serve in a relationship according to the design and the dictate that God has given in that relationship and that therefore what will be seen in me and in my life in all of my relationships, men and women, married and unmarried is that I will focus on the importance of having a right attitude, because attitudes are the issue of ultimate importance and so in summary, in rap, Peter provides the list of the cosmetics of a beautiful life. You wanna know what the cosmetics are of a beautiful life? You wanna know what the attitudes are that make all the difference in life? Well, just begin reading again in verse 9 **[should be 8]**

*Finally...*

Everything he started saying about submission back up there in chapter 2, he's coming to this point, he says now,

*Finally...*

Now we know it's not the end of the book, because he didn't end the book. Heh! He still has 2 more chapters. But he's saying finally on this subject of submission women, men, bosses, servants, he says okay, here are the attitudes that make a difference.

*<sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; <sup>9</sup>not returning evil for evil for reviling but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

Write em down. What are the cosmetics of a beautiful life.

One **COOPERATION**: When he says be of one mind he's talking about harmony. He's talking about being a person who uses whoever you are and whatever you have to be a cooperative supporter of others and not a competitor. Tragically for people who really are caught up in the image of their

physical appearance, the most threatening thing to them is when somebody else is in the room who might be more beautiful or more handsome. And so then everything become competition, not cooperation. You can't build a relationship on competition. A competition by its very nature is the antiseptic of love and of trust and so therefore the essence of a beautiful life is a spirit of cooperation, a spirit of unity, a spirit that, that reflects an attitude from the inside out, that I'm the kind of person that wants to get along with others, not someone who's looking for a way to make others get along with me.

Secondly, there is **COMPASSION**, the beautiful cosmetic of compassion when he says:

*...all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another;...*

The word compassion just means that you have a spirit of caring for the needs of others, that you put others needs before yourself; that you respond in a moment of need. Nothing is so attractive as people who reflect compassion from the inside out. And it's that compassion that changes hearts; it's that compassion that attracts others.

Tonight when we leave I'm gonna ask you to help us with an act, the first step of an act of compassion. You'll read in your worship guide tonight that, beginning tonight and then over the next few weeks, we are going to partner with the International Mission Board of our Southern Baptist Convention to be a part of providing food and human...humanitarian relief to the Iraqi peoples and they have put together a project, you can read about it at [IMB.org](http://IMB.org) on the internet, the International Mission Board.org. But they have actually got...did the lights blink or was somethin happen to me? [pause for slight congregation laughter] All right I just wanted to be sure. Thanks, that was right on cue, I wanted to be sure they were payin attention cause we were talking about an offering. So anyway a..., but starting tonight, what we're going to do is a..., one of the requirements to be able to do this project is that we have to get a certain number of specific size U-Haul boxes that we will ultimately take to the entire church family over the next few weeks, a challenge to begin to get some specific items and to fill up those boxes that will be food related items that will go and feed an Iraqi family for a month. Well, we've gotta get those boxes and so I just looked at Ross Robinson our Minister of Missions yesterday and said, "All right, we'll just do that in Connection Service. We'll help!" We'll help get the boxes so we can help to get the church ready to distribute the boxes and then they can begin to put together boxes. Now you may wanna be a part of a box in the future. But tonight if you give some money in that special offering, a portion of that can help us go to buy those boxes. It's just an act of compassion. Has there been anything more precious then seeing the way that the people of Iraq have responded to soldiers in uniform who they thought would come with aggression, but have come with compassion. It's a beautiful picture and it's true in life, woman, men, all of us, the joy of a beautiful life is compassion.

Then there's **CONSIDERATION**, consideration. It says that you are to have one mind, to be compassion for one another and love as brothers. To love as brothers the word here is the word "*phileos-adelphos*" Philadelphia, our city of brotherly love. It's the idea of being considerate of others. Have you ever said of somebody, I love them like a brother, I love them like a sister? It means you just consider them at high value in your life and if you wanna be a person who has the inner quality of beauty then be a person who constantly is expressing a spirit of consideration for others because it is a cosmetic that will attract people to your life.

And then there is **CONTRITION**, contrition, humility instead of pride. It says be tenderhearted in verse 8. That's the same word that we read over in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 32 where it says:

*And be kind...tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.*

The Bible challenges us to be tenderhearted people and that means not to be people who are swollen and proud of heart but people who with kindness and humility are putting the needs of others ahead of themselves and are finding ways, not to assert themselves but to serve others, contrition.

And then the last thing, of course is be **COURTEOUS**, courteous. Try this, next time you're standing in a long line in a convenience store or grocery store, watch the exchanges that are going on between some of the people and the person who is doin the check-out. But when you get there, you look at em and just say, "Hi, how are you doin? Good to see you, are you havin a good day?" You just begin to be courteous to them and you'll be amazed what that little bit of courtesy will often do. I tell you one of the most amazing things is on a parkin lot when a bunch of cars are tryin to get out, you know like on Sunday mornin right after the church service? Everybody's mad, cause they're ready to eat and they're hungry, you'd think we'd been fasting for, you know, 3 days, but you know we're all out there. [pause for slight congregation laughter] Boy you let somebody cut somebody off and yes, even right after church there's a sense of I'm gonna get you! [pause for slight congregation laughter] But you let somebody put their hands up, you know, you go on, you, no you, you go on, you go on, no, no you go on, you know and it's just a, yeah it's incredible. And we're all having a good time bein courteous and it's a beautiful thing, it's completely different then what Monday morning gridlock looks like because we're learned the value of courtesy.

You see ladies and gentlemen God wants real beauty for real relationships. But real beauty is something that comes from the heart. It's in a heart that has been conformed to the will of God in submission, looking for ways to express obedience to God in relationships and that ultimately is a beauty that is seen in attitude, because it's attitude not appearance that makes the difference in real beauty and that beauty is seen in you and me when it's cooperation, compassion, consideration, contrition and courtesy.

And old hymn says it this way:

*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,  
All His wonderful passion and purity.  
Oh Thou Spirit divine, all my nature refined,  
Till the beauty of Jesus is seen in me.*