

"YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL"

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KESSID

SCRIPTURE + SPIRIT

For me the depth of God's Beauty is a difficult thing to grasp, but a blast to try and conceive.

- Here at Kessid we love talking about God's beauty, Christ's beauty, even the beauty of the cross ...

(Vs) Psalm 27:4 - One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

Question: Have you ever considered 'Beauty' as an attribute of God?

- It's difficult because for many of us, beauty is a very subjective concept, and divine beauty is for us a really abstract concept.
- And yet aesthetically, we are moved by beautiful things... beautiful music, beautiful paintings, and beautiful image. We all respond to beauty instinctually.

A beautiful definition of beauty...

- This definition of beauty comes from the early classical and medieval period...
Def: "Beauty is an intrinsic quality of things which, when it's perceived, pleases the mind by a certain kind of fittingness."
• A "Fittingness" - habitability, suitability for living in or on. Eligibility. The quality or state of being eligible.

Right from the very beginning of Scripture, this definition clearly illustrates its self...

- (Vs) Gen. 1:1 - *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*
- That phrase "Heaven and the Earth" describes The World or EVERYTHING.
- In the Greek, this is captured by the word cosmos.
- **Def:** *"The Cosmos is the sum total of everything; and it implies an ordered arrangement of all those things."*
- It's a combination of both orderliness and adornment. - A "Fittingness"

- In this way, beauty is embedded within The World's creation.
- As an example... (Vs) Acts 17:24 – “The God who made the world [Cosmos] and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man...”

Beauty is being spilled out at the beginning of the Bible...

- ... even afterwards, when God makes His assessment of the days of creation being “good.”

(Vs) Genesis 1:11–12 (NRSV) – Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good [tov].

- Recognize this word? It's in the Jewish/Yiddish saying “Mazel Tov,” or “Good Luck” in English. **Def:** Tov – “Good or Very Good.”
- The word represents an assessment of God's delight in His creation.
- But the Hebrew word *tov* is not just something that's proper and good in some functional sense... it has ethical, aesthetic connotations as well...

Allow me to explain by taking you a few steps deeper...

- ... by reflecting on the translation of that *Genesis 1* text into Greek, in the Septuagint... “Septuagint” – The Greek Old Testament... those translators translated *tov* to the Greek word *kalos*.
Def: “Kalos” : Is a Good that has this idea of being aesthetically beautiful, morally excellent, noble, organically sound, desirable, praiseworthy.
- So, through both words, we have a thick theological picture of beauty being painted, right from the very design of creation itself.

Beauty is inherent to God, and it's reflected in everything that He does.

- Question: Why is this important?
- The ultimate problem of every human being is not just that we are rebellious and bent away from God...It's really more that we are blind to God and His workings.
- In this way, our hearts cannot see as they should.

(Vs) John 9:39 – Jesus said, “...I came into this world, that those who do not see may see...”

Our own stubbornness creates a haze or blindness causing us to stand before a sermon, scripture, or a song proclaiming God's goodness and yet see nothing but darkness.

“We are not just in rebellion against the authority of God, we are ‘heart blind’ to the beauty of God!”

- To those who choose to build their lives on a foundation other than God...
(Vs) Rev. 2:4 – “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” – A Heart of Blindness has Enveloped you.

With the opposite emphasis, “Seeing” is the very first thing that happens when Jesus causes a life to be reborn...

(Vs) Eph. 1:18 – having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ...

“The first effect of the power of God in the heart in regeneration, is to give the heart a Divine taste, or sense; to cause it to have a relish of the loveliness and sweetness of the supreme excellency of the Divine nature.”
– Johnathan Edwards, 18th Century Theologian

And seeing this beauty changes everything...

An example of this is Matthew’s account of Jesus...

(Vs) Matt. 26:6-13 – Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to Him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Did you catch it?

- The New Testament is written in Greek...
- The word for *beautiful* that Jesus uses is the word *kalos*, which has that rich aesthetic definition or meaning...
- He’s proclaiming this woman sees me... Her act was... “morally excellent, noble, organically sound, desirable, praiseworthy...”

And so, teaching you and I...

- ...that all of those born again, those with enlightened eyes and hearts filled with understanding... We are supposed to look upon this created world, and beyond to our Creator and proclaim... “God, you’re beautiful!”
- (Vs) Psalm 50:2 – “From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.”