A Wife and Mothers Beauty In God’s Sight

Intro:
A. We live in a society where beauty is often related to outward appearance. Many women are constantly looking to change that with cosmetic surgery and all types of makeup and other ways of modification...ie. Diet and exercise. (Nothing wrong with the latter two)
1. However, as in the case of David’s selection to be king of Israel we see that God does not look at the outward appearance but rather the inner beauty of the Heart, this is also true of the Mother and wife of the home.
2. Today is the observation of mother’s day, a day the world says “Thank You” to mothers. For the Christian family every day should be a “Thank You” for being the example of a good Christian wife and Mother to follow.
   a. This is true of our realization that we are following Christ, which is why we are here... not to observe and honor man but to honor Christ who set us all and example to follow...I Cor 11:1.
   b. Saw this sign on a church buildings marque - “No one greater than a Mothers love” ---- stop and think of that for a moment! ---- cf. John 3:16 - this is what happens when we lose our focus on why we are here today!

B. So the question we ask today is very simple - “What makes a Wife and Mother Beautiful in the sight of God?”
   1. As in all questions which relate to God our only source of information will be from the Scriptures.
   2. This will return our thoughts back to our theme this year of “God molding and making us after His will, or our making and molding Him after our will.”
      a. Yes Lord, I know what you say but I think, I’m doing and I want.... is not the way we live pleasing Him....but rather pleasing ourselves.
      b. Brother Ed, touched on this Wednesday night in his short talk - When we come to worship is it what I want out of it - or is it what God wants out of me?

C. I want to start by reading this short article - MY HUSBAND, I HAVE BEEN UNFAITHFUL -----...she joined her husband in the bedroom. Their children were asleep. He was busy reading the newspaper. She looked at him."My love, there's something I need to confess" she began to speak. "What is it?" he asked without looking at her, his face still glued to the newspaper."I have been unfaithful" she said. He looked at her with fiery eyes. He slapped her. For the first time in their marriage, he slapped her.
1. "How could you woman?! Seventeen years of marriage, four children and this is what you do to me? You cheat on me? Foolish? How can you stoop so low?" he shouted. He got up from the bed. He started pacing as he continued shouting, "You are the one who always tells me to keep off women. Out of respect, I keep females at a distance and you on the other hand do this?"He was just about to pounce on his wife and beat her. The sting of unfaithfulness enraged him. A knock was heard on the door.
2. Their first born, Maria, a fourteen year old girl walked in their bedroom."Mom, dad; is everything OK?" Maria asked. "Get out! Get out!" he shouted as his daughter."It's OK Maria, Dad and I will sort this out. Go to sleep" She told their first born daughter, Maria. Maria walked out of their bedroom. "Who is it? Who have you been unfaithful with? Give me his phone number. He will know today who I am" he shouted trying to grab his wife's phone. She humbly took her phone."Show me his number. Show me his face. Filthy animal who is snatching my wife" he shouted some more. "This is the man I have been unfaithful with" she said giving her husband her phone. Her husband looked at the screen of her phone and saw his own face and phone number."Me?!" he asked puzzled looking at her."Yes, I have been unfaithful with you.
3. I have been unfaithful to God because I have been so busy loving you. In my effort to try being a good wife, I have forgotten God" she said. He sat down on the bed, confused. "When you met me,
I was so devoted to God. In fact, you used to tell me that the most important reason you chose me as your wife was because of my devotion to God. I loved the Godly man you used to be. We would pray and long to have a Godly family together. I remember the days I would fast and pray and tell God that if He blesses me with a good job, I will dedicate my career to Him. God did bless me, God blessed us. We did so well professionally, we could afford a good wedding. We got married" she explained. He looked at her intently. She continued, "The first few months of our marriage, we would pray as a family, go to Church, have fellowships, worship and Bible Study; but slowly, we stopped living by that Scripture that says as for me and my household we will serve the Lord. We started having children who we failed to raise in the Godly way. With success, we changed our friends. We found the born again friends boring. We started worshiping money, success and materials. Look at us now, we live in a big house but God is absent. You started taking me to unGodly places to have fun, we started drinking too much, our children ashamed by our drinking"He looked away from her.

4. "In order to please you, I changed too; thinking that being a good wife means tagging along with everything you do. I didn't confront you when you started going astray, I didn't pull you back to God, I got lost with you. So lost, that I started becoming proud, shallow, self-centered; all along thinking I am being a good wife. But this is not me. I have changed so much from the woman you found me. We both have changed much"He looked at her. "All these. The good house, the good meals we eat, the money we have, the comfortable life; they have made us forget the God who gave them to us. I am nothing without God and I feel ashamed that I have abandoned the God responsible for all I am and have. We have started having troubles in our marriage, because the Lord is no longer building our love, we are doing it on our own and we will fail if we keep on like this"She reached out and touched his hand. "I want to go back to the woman I used to be. A woman after God's own heart. I miss the peace that God gives, I miss worship, I miss reading the Word, I miss going to Church and fellowship, I miss meditating, I miss praying with you. What does it profit me to gain a good marriage yet lose my soul, my God? I am going back to God.

5. Only as a wife submitted to God, will I be the best wife to you and the best mother to our children. He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from God, but I cannot bring favour to you if I continue being disconnected from God. I want my spiritual life back. I want God back in our home, our marriage, our family". He started breaking down in tears. His spirit convicted. He held her tightly in his arms. "I am sorry. I am sorry for going astray and taking you with me. You chose to marry me because you thought you are marrying a Godly man. I miss being that Godly man. Marriage shouldn't be a stumbling block in our walk with God. The thought of you cheating on me ripped my heart apart, I cannot even begin to imagine how God feels when we are unfaithful to Him. God having blessed us this much and we turn our backs on Him. At the thought of you cheating on me I was filled with rage, yet God patiently looks at us in our unfaithfulness desiring us to go back to Him. I want to go back too. I want more in my life than these earthly things, I want God. I want the God of my youth. I am so sorry for slapping you".

6. That night, they knelt down and repented, rededicated their lives and marriage to God. The Prodigal Couple came back to God. The next morning, they prayed together with their children. God returned back to that home, because that couple returned back to God.

II. What makes a Wife and Mother Beautifull In God’s Sight ---- (now men don’t switch off here because you must be aware of what God demands!

A. As a wife and mother it goes without saying that God demands that we must be GODLY in the same
manner as He does of Men - this is something God demands of all His Creation regardless of our status.

1. **1 Timothy 6:6** (NKJV) - 6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
2. **1 Timothy 6:11** (NKJV) - 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

B. In Order to obtain this we must “Flee These Things” just as is the case with men....

1. The context — doctrine not “according to godliness” …
   a. Sexual sin — 1 Thes 4:3,7; Eph 5:3; Matt 5:27-30 …
   b. Anger — “A put off all these anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.” - Eph 4:26, 31; 5:8; Psa 37:8; Prov 17:14; 19:19; 29:22; Gal. 5:15; James 1:20; 3:14–16
   c. Selfishness — Phil. 2:3; James 3:14-16
   d. Deceit — Eph 4:25; Prov. 6:17; 12:19, 22; Col. 3:9

2. She must Pursue righteousness just as a Man must:...
   a. godliness, faith, love, patience and gentleness.

C. BUT.... WHAT a Godly Women Does must be noted because this is what makes her beautiful in God’s sight - it is also what makes her ugly in our societies sight:

1. God gave man the kind of companion he needed, i.e. - a “helper comparable to him.”
   a. "I shall make a helper fit for him" (ESV); "I will make a suitable partner for him" (NAB); “suitable, corresponding to” (NASB).
   (1) Woman completes man - she is his equal in spiritual nature but not in physical nature, a helper in function. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15-25).
   (2) **Genesis 1:26-27** (NKJV) - 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
     (a) Humans are the Pinnacle of God’s creation and he has designed for them to function as He wills.... not as society dictates or thinks!
   (3) **Genesis 2:15-25** (NKJV) - 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” 18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.** 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and **He brought her to the man.** 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.
     (a) Note a women was created from the side of man, not from the neck bone (so as to direct and control his headship) or from the feet bones (so as to be tramped upon) but from the rib cage - the very cage to protect the vital organs and from the side to be a companion to man.
     (b) The signs that says - “My husband is the head of the home and I gave him the right to say so”
is no joking matter when it comes to marriage as God designed it - it is pure blasphemy.

2. **1 Timothy 2:9–15 (NKJV)** - 9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pears or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.
   a. 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
   (1) In her Appearance: Modest apparel / with good works with decency and propriety (cf. v. 15).
   (a) These terms stress not so much the absence of sexual suggestiveness, though it is included, but rather an appearance that is simple, moderate, judicious, and free from ostentation.
   (2) not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, — are not wrong in themselves, but are inappropriate when they indicate misplaced values (cf. **1 Peter 3:3**).
   (a) **1 Peter 3:3 (NKJV)** - 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—
   b. Christians must be careful about letting culture set their fashions.

3. **1 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)** - 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
   a. Not a requirement to “bear children” to be saved –
   b. Salvation comes by submitting to God’s conditions & roles –
   (1) “The woman shall be saved by keeping simply and faithfully to her allotted sphere as wife and mother.” - Dummelow
   (2) If she Continues in .....
   (a) Faith – the guiding principle in the life of a Christian–
   (b) Love - Active GOOD WILL
   (c) Holiness - Conduct befitting those separated to God – **2 Cor 6:14-7:1**
   i) **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (NKJV)** - 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” 17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
   (d) with self-control - reign over all passions & desires

4. **Titus 2:3–5 (NKJV)** - 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
   a. As A Godly Mother ..... 
   (1) To love her children - (**Titus 2:4**).
   (2) To provide for and cherish her children - (**1 Thess 2:7**).
   (a) **1 Thessalonians 2:7 (NKJV)** - 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.
   (3) To teach her children the scriptures – (**2 Tim 1:5; 3:15**)
   (a) **2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)** - 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which
dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

(b) **2 Timothy 3:15** (NKJV) - 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

(4) To teach daughters & younger women how to be godly - (Ezek. 16:44, 1 Tim 2:9-10).
(a) **Ezekiel 16:44** (NKJV) - 44 “Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: ‘Like mother, like daughter!’

(b) **1 Timothy 2:9-10** (NKJV) - 9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

(5) To be honored – (Eph 6:2)
(a) **Ephesians 6:2** (NKJV) - 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:

5. **1 Peter 3:1–4** (NKJV) - 1 Wives, likewise, 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, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

a. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

b. Not a prohibition to the wearing of jewelry, makeup & (fine) clothing.
   (1) Not this – But – This – specifying that which is precious in the sight of God – Qualities that REALLY matter to Him and should be our focus!!
   (a) Submissive - Chaste Conduct - Respectful - Gentle - Quiet Spirit

c. Subjection is a role to be filled AND DOES NOT IMPLY INFERIORITY in value in the sight of God! - Eph 5:22,23

(1) **Ephesians 5:22** (NKJV) - 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
   (a) **Ephesians 5:23** (NKJV) - 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

(2) Submission CANNOT be forced, but MUST BE voluntarily assumed!

(3) Culture CANNOT change God’s designed roles - 1 Tim 2:9-15

(a) **1 Timothy 2:9-15** (NKJV) - 9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

d. Chaste Conduct - Holiness, Purity - pure from carnality, disciplined.
   (1) This purity results from the observance of God’s Law – she is to live her every day life as God would have her live!
   (2) Modest apparel, zealous in good works, sober minded … teaching by example.

e. Respectful - Respect God by respecting His Word

(1) Respectful to all who are in a God appointed position - **1 Peter 3:6** (NKJV) - 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

(2) Younger women should respect older, godly women by listening to them- Tit 2:4,5

(a) **Titus 2:4** (NKJV) - 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their
(b) Titus 2:5 (NKJV) - 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

f. Gentle - Meekness, “submitting to the yoke” - disposition of spirit in which we accept God’s dealings with us as good.
   (1) The opposite of self-assertiveness & self-interest -we trust in God’s goodness, control & will -
   (2) Manifested in how we respond to others …

g. Quiet Spirit - Quiet - Tranquility in disposition. – Peaceable.
   (1) Not “SELF Assertive” - Not a “busy body” –
   (2) The opposite of “usurping authority”
   (3) To be noticed for her godliness & service, not for self exaltation.

D. The Value of a Godly Women - Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV) - 10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

1. The Virtuous Women - Proverbs 31:10-31 (NKJV) - 10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: 29 “Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.” 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.
   a. A Devoted Woman ~ 11-12
   b. An Industrious Woman ~ 13-19
   c. A Charitable Woman ~ 20
   d. A Prepared Woman ~ 21-22
   e. A Supportive Woman ~ 12,23
   f. A Business Woman ~ 24
   g. A Woman of Character ~ 25-27
   h. A Woman of Godly Fear ~ 30
   i. A Woman Who is Blessed ~ 31

2. The greatest attainment of women in worldly affairs cannot equal the attainment of a virtuous character by a godly woman.
   a. No beauty of outward form and glamour can match the beauty of the virtue and holiness of a godly woman.
   b. All outward beauty fades, but true goodness & virtue endure for ever!

E. The Godly Wife and Mother Abides within Her God Appointed Role - note these great examples from the Scriptures:
1. Lydia – Acts 16:13-15; 40
   a. Acts 16:13-15 (NKJV) - 13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.
   b. Acts 16:40 (NKJV) - 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

2. Priscilla – Acts 18:24-26
   a. Acts 18:24-26 (NKJV) - 24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

3. Lois & Eunice – 2 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 3:14,15;
   a. 2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV) - 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.
   b. 2 Timothy 3:14 (NKJV) - 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,
      (1) 2 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV) - 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

4. Euodia & Syntyche - Philip 4:2
   a. Philippians 4:2 (NKJV) - 2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

5. Tabitha (Dorcas) – Acts 9:36-39
   a. Acts 9:36-39 (NKJV) - 36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

6. The Impact of Godly women is seen in the lives of:
   a. Sarah –
   b. Deborah –
   c. Esther –
   d. Hannah –
   e. Ruth –
   f. Mary –
   g. Mary Magdalene –
   h. Martha –
   i. Tabitha —

III. In Conclusion:

A. 1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV) - 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1. Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) - 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

2. Colossians 3:19–21 (NKJV) - 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them, … 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

a. Deuteronomy 6:1–9 (NKJV) - 1 “Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

b. 3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

c. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

B. This is what God demands of you His second in Creation of the human race, and His second in the creation of the Home.

1. 1 Timothy 2:8-15

C. The question you must ask yourself here today - have I molded my life to conform to God or have I created an Idol of what I believe God should expect from me?

1. Remember “He is the Potter - I am the Clay” ---- not the other way round.