## How Beautiful Are You, Really? By Brooks A. Harris, O.D.

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You may be very physically attractive according to worldly standards, but how beautiful are you really? Often people who are physically attractive are looked up to as a positive example to other people and unfortunately praised by others only for their looks (especially many models and movie stars). This can cause many physically attractive people to feel that they are better than other people and they may even develop a "god complex" – feeling that they deserve being worshipped.

In the Bible, this is exactly what happened to Satan (Lucifer – the Devil). In Ezekiel 28:11-19, the Lord God said of Satan that Satan was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, and that Satan's heart was lifted up because of his beauty, but Satan corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor.

So, what makes a person truly beautiful in God's sight? A truly beautiful person is one who has a warm, compassionate, loving heart toward God and other people – one who follows the commandments of God. When Jesus was once asked what was the greatest commandment, He said in Matthew 22:36-40 that you are to "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself …'" Also, the Bible states in Matthew 25:31-46 that those who help provide the needs of other people are blessed in God's eyes.

Therefore, if someone allows their outward appearance to make them feel superior to other people and to negatively influence their compassion for others, they are spiritually ugly and a bad example for other people. Compassionate people who love God and enjoy caring for others, tend to be content, happy people full of joy. Where as selfish people, only concerned about themselves, tend to be more miserable and never truly satisfied with their life.

Remember too that outer beauty (physical attractiveness) always fades over time, but inward beauty can continue to grow throughout your life as you let your love and compassion grow strong for God and for other people. So, thank God for your attractiveness and ask Him to use it for His glory and then willingly and joyfully do things for other people and treat them as you would want to be treated.