

THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF HUMILITY**THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE**

There are magazines and media outlets that come up with the most attractive men and women on the planet. Beauty contests, the Junior Miss, Ms. America, and the Ms. University pageants are seeking the most attractive people. There is a reality show trying to find the next supermodel. In an image-conscious world, people have their idea about what beauty and attractiveness are. Yet, the Bible says that humility makes one beautiful.

**The Humble Look Wealthy (Psalm 37:11).** Wealth and glamor are seen as hand in hand by the world, but this is not the kind of wealth the worldly would recognize. David speaks of the humble “inheriting the land” in much the same way Jesus says “the meek shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). The contrast of the Psalm is between evil-doers who trust in themselves and the righteous who are dependent upon God. Those who rely on God put their trust in the One who has it all.

**The Humble Look Well-Preserved (Psalm 76:9).** The good news is that no face lifts or cosmetics are needed for this well-preserved look. The Psalmist exalted at the fact that God will save the humble. Here, the writer speaks of salvation from a physical calamity. Scripture repeatedly demonstrates humility as a precursor to salvation.

**The Humble Look Like Jesus (Matthew 11:29).** It seems that Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be plain and ordinary in physical appearance (Isaiah 53:2), but no one in all the histories of men is more attractive than Jesus in all the ways that count. Jesus says “I am humble.” When we come to Him and imitate Him, we will look like Him.

**The Humble Look Childlike (Matthew 18:4).** Everyone wants to look younger. Spiritually, Jesus says we must humble ourselves like a child to enter the kingdom. Children in their innocence have the attractive qualities of trust, forgiveness, and gentleness. Those who humble themselves like a little child bear the same marks.

**The Humble Look Well-Placed (James 1:9).** It takes no corruption or “knowing somebody” for the humble to look “well-placed.” The Bible says that God gives a promotion to the one who humbles himself.

**The Humble Look Graceful (James 4:6).** Thankfully, that is not the same as coordinated and adroit. Simply, God gives grace to the humble just as He resists the proud.

**The Humble Look Well-Clothed (1 Peter 5:5).** You do not have to wear the latest fashions or make the cover of GQ. Humility is the clothing and it perfectly coordinates with anything in a spiritually mature “wardrobe.”

As we contribute our share of money to the billions spent on improving our physical appearance, let us spend more time on the “inward man.” Let us watch and care about our appearance—spiritually! It will make us more attractive to the sensible and spiritual around us, but most importantly it will make us attractive to God!

-Neal Pollard

“...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:8)

**COMMON SENSE CHRISTIANITY:**  
**BE GIVEN TO PATIENCE AND PRAYER**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. The Value of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. The Value of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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**EXAMINE YOURSELVES**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Am I Pure in \_\_\_\_\_?

Notes:

II. Am I Pure in \_\_\_\_\_?

Notes:

III. Am I Pure in \_\_\_\_\_?

Notes:

**NO TIME TODAY**

I haven't time today, dear Lord,  
tomorrow I'll give to Thee.  
So many things, so much to do, today I must work for me.  
I know I promised this day,  
Lord, but something has changed by plans.  
The car needs washing, the yard's a mess,  
and I need to see a man.

So sorry, dear Lord, had a call just now,  
some relatives in town you see,  
Tomorrow I'll make it up to you,  
Tomorrow I'll give to Thee.  
Tomorrow—it never seems to come,  
The work of the Lord is left undone.  
If troubles should come to us today.  
Suppose the Lord turned His face away.

He might ignore our earnest plea  
With words familiar in our ears could ring,  
“Today I'm so busy with other things,  
Tomorrow, dear one, I might listen to thee.”

*-Frances Johnson*

**WE DON'T ADVISE THIS END TO AN ARGUMENT**

A man left work one Friday afternoon. But instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend playing golf with the boys and spending his entire paycheck. When he finally appeared at home, Sunday night, he was confronted by his very angry wife and was barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade for his actions. Finally his wife stopped the nagging and simply said to him, “How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?” To which the husband replied: “That would be fine with me.”

Monday went by and he didn't see his wife.

Tuesday went by and he didn't see his wife.

Wednesday went and went with the same results.

Finally, on Thursday the swelling went down just enough so he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

**HOME-SPUN WISDOM**

Troubles in marriage often start when a man gets so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar...Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good... When a man marries a woman, they become one—but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one! Remember just because many couples “harp at each other” does not mean that their marriage is made in heaven!

LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN

Among the countless sad realities of life dwells conflict. It is a condition as old as time itself. Yet, in thousands of years of world history man, on a mass level, still has not figured out not only the sense, but the joy found in peace. Society has engrained within the minds of virtually the entirety of earth's population that we must "look out for number one." Our foremost thought should always be to act out of nothing more than self-interest; and when the interests of another is found in conflict with our own interest, then we should act out, often irrationally, and we can feel perfectly justified in such. And what's even sadder than the degradation of peaceful living among the selfish is the pacifist attitude among the innocent. The distasteful attitude displayed by many is merely passed off with the simple thought, "there's one in every crowd," as though that sad norm is justification for the disgusting displays of pride. Paul, though, would have somewhat to say about such a concept.

In Romans 12, Paul discusses the necessity of displaying a life contrary to the norms of society with hopes of making an impact among the lost. Specifically, in verses nine through twenty-one, Paul lists a number of practical principles revolving around the need to overcome evil with good (vs. 21). One principle stands out in particular with regard to our thoughts thus far: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (vs. 18). In that short and concise verse, Paul makes the universally applicable point that peaceable living is the greatest life we can have. Paul would be troubled to see not only the continuance, but the escalation since even his time, of individuals and groups of people who not only desire but seem to thrive on conflict. It is something they pursue, feed upon, and perpetuate through their actions. He was familiar in the first century with some of a like persuasion, but I believe he would be surprised at how deeply it has been engrained in the lives of the populace. Today the plea must be escalated, let us live peaceably with all men if at all possible. What, though, can we gather from that statement in application to our lives?

First, Paul implies the **basis of peace**. The world's perception of peace is founded on the thought "if we are not fighting, we are at peace." It does not matter if the heart projects pure hatred, spite, or wrath, as long as those feelings do not materialize in action then peace is claimed. The Bible, though, makes the basis of peace an inward matter. Notice Paul's statement that if it is possible, "as much as lieth in you" peace should be sought. Those words indicate that peace is an inner working of the heart that is the result of true brotherly love. This does not mean that all parties must be in complete agreement in order for peace to be achieved (peace and unity are not totally parallel), but it does mean that there is a degree of mutual respect even though differences may exist. I believe you see this principle exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ. Though the Jews were anything but civil with Him in their differences, Jesus always maintained a proper decorum and dealt with them respectfully. Such should be the case among all people, whether its brethren dealing with one another, Christians dealing with the world, or the world dealing with New Testament Christians. The basis of peace is a matter of the heart, and if I am not seeking to live in peace among men, what does that say about my heart?

Second, Paul warns against the **betrayal of peace**. Keep in mind the contextual rationale for the peace of which Paul is speaking. As Christians, we should be seeking to impact the world and "overcome evil with good." Therefore, peace stands as a means of distinguishing ourselves from the world and changing hearts. However, what if I betray that plea for peace? I then am directly impacting the cause of Christ in a negative fashion. How many hot heads among God's people have left an indelibly blemished mark on the Lord's church among those familiar with him/her? Diotrophes (3 John 9ff) was likely known as an enemy of peace not only by fellow Christians, but by local acquaintances as well. How many hearts were turned from ever desiring to know more about the church of Christ because of the irrational and unmerciful actions toward his own brethren? When we betray the advancement of peace we directly betray the cause of Christ itself.

Third, Paul defends his **belief in peace**. Paul viewed peace as the greatest life he could pursue that would result in the greatest harvest of souls. 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 stands as a prime example of his belief in the advancement of peace being necessary to the advancement of the gospel. If we are truly as concerned with the salvation of souls and the propagation of the gospel as was Paul, then our lives will be a reflection of the desire to, if at all possible, live peaceably with all men. If, though, I act often times in betrayal of peace, what does that say about my concern for the salvation of souls and the propagation of the gospel?

Peaceful living is the only option for true Christians as we live and interact with one another and with those in the world; and whether or not peace is sought directly reflects back not only on us, but on the God whom we claim to serve. If my intentions are pure and my heart is right, then it will be immediately assumed that in my life, if it be possible, as much as lieth in me, I will live peaceably with all men.