

Chapter 7- Discussion Questions

Opening Question: In what ways do you see the pursuit of beauty in our culture today? How does it affect the way we use our time, money, and energy?

- 1) Why is beauty a good thing? What is the difference between celebrating or enjoying beauty and idolizing beauty?
- 2) When you think of God, do you describe him as beautiful? Read Psalm 27:4, Psalm 96:6, and Isaiah 28:5. How do these verses describe God, and how do they affect your understanding of beauty?
- 3) How does our quest for beauty extend beyond just our physical appearance? How does it affect how we view other people and our possessions?
- 4) Read 2 Kings 17:14-18
 - a. How did the Israelites fall into idolatry?
 - b. According to this passage how does unbelief lead to idolatry? How does it lead to sin?
 - c. What are the consequences of idolatry?
 - d. In what ways is it a struggle for us to believe God that inner beauty (holiness, righteousness, goodness) is more important than outer beauty?
 - e. How is our unbelief the root of our idolatry of beauty? How does it lead us away from the Lord and into disobedience and sin?
 - f. What consequences do you think result from a misplaced idolatry of beauty?
- 5) How does our comparison with others interfere with our relationships with them? Have you ever struggled with jealousy or envy toward someone because of her beauty? How did that struggle affect your relationship with them?
- 6) How does the truth of the gospel calm our fears of not being accepted by others because we don't measure up to their standard of beauty?
- 7) Read 1 Peter 3:3-6
 - a. What would it look like practically to pursue the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit? How would that affect your use of time, energy, and money?
 - b. Why is it tempting to place our hope and trust in our outward appearance rather than in God? Why will the pursuit of worldly beauty ultimately fail to satisfy?
- 8) Read Philippians 3:20. How does this verse encourage you today?
- 9) Think of someone who might not be described as beautiful by the world's standards, yet her life beautifully reflects Jesus. What shines forth from her life that makes her attractive in a way that is deeper and richer than other forms of beauty?
- 10) As you think back over the chapter, what truth resonated with you? How will you live differently in light of that new understanding?