

culture where beauty is worshiped and anything less is ridiculed or ignored. And that points to the problem Lynn is addressing through an organisation called The Pinocchio Plot. She wants to counter the beauty-is-everything syndrome that afflicts our world. Children's books, toys, the entertainment industry, and the workplace perpetuate an emphasis on externals-looking no deeper than the surface.

This is a big problem because we naturally are attracted to what is attractive. It takes conscious effort to *look beyond looks* to the soul below the skin.

Jesus knows what we're talking about. The prophet Isaiah described the coming Messiah this way: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2).

One of Christ's followers, Peter, wrote, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment . . . Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (1 Peter 3:3-4).

That's true beauty. It's a beauty we need to learn how to see in others-and a beauty we need to cultivate in our own lives. -KD

REFLECTION



- How do I feel about the way I look? How do I think God feels about my appearance?
- Have I been giving time to the care and grooming of my soul?
- How can I get to know people on the basis of who they are and not just how they look?

Central Mountains Baptist Church

MOTHER'S DAY, 2018

LOOK BEYOND LOOKS

Lynn thinks she's ugly. Cruel kids have pointed at her and called her names like Pinocchio and Wicked Witch. A bunch of teenagers once pulled up beside her and shouted through a megaphone, "We see your big nose!" Adults have stared. A former boyfriend told her that he just

couldn't love an ugly woman.



She's had to deal with a blotchy purple birthmark over her right eye, a long nose, and pale, thin lips. After years of being called names, being rejected, and trying to hide or change, Lynn concluded, "It's OK to be ugly. I think I have a beautiful soul, and that's all that matters."

When you aren't a Barbie doll, it's not easy to grow up in a



Our Home

The Fulfilled Mother

Proverbs 31 gives 4 principles for fulfillment as a wife and mother:

1. _____ God, verses 1, 30

(Proverbs 1:7) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, ..."

(Proverbs 8:13) "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; ..."

(1 Timothy 2:9-10) "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."

(1 Peter 3:3-4) "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."

(1 Timothy 6:6) "Now godliness with contentment is great gain."



2. Develop _____,

#1. Moral _____, verse 10

#2. _____, verse 11

#3. _____, verse 12

#4. _____, verse 20

#5. _____, verse 23

#6. Mature or _____, verse 25

#7. _____ and _____, verse 26

#8. _____, verse 29

(Psalms 128:3) "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house..."

(John 15:4) "'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

(Galatians 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. ..."

(Ephesians 1:3-7) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,



{4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

{5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

{6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

{7} In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"

3. Care for _____, verses 11-12, 28-19, 13-19, 21-22, 24, 27-28

(Proverbs 31:11) Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. [paraphrase]



4. Involvement in faithful _____, verse 20

