

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #234

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Dean Bible Ministries

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1ST & 2ND
SAMUEL

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S
GOD'S STANDARDS FOR BEAUTY

PSALM 30:4–5

GOD CREATOR

TRUTH, BEAUTY
resides in the
thinking of God

God speaks to
everything He
creates or He
speaks to nothing
He creates.

FINITE UNIVERSE

Matter/energy

Light

Vegetation

Animals

Man

[who he is]

Purpose

Social

(marriage, family,
law, politics)

Ethics

Aesthetics

(art, music, literature)

CULTURE

1. The popular meaning:

the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, literature, drama, music, etc.

2. The meaning here:

The beliefs and behaviors that characterize a group of people, from a small group such as a family or a team, to a large group such as an ethnic group or national entity.

The beliefs influence the values, priorities, actions of a group of people. In this sense, what the Bible speaks of as worldliness is really the culture of different groups of fallen, rebellious human beings.

Psa. 30:4,

**“Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His,
and give thanks at the remembrance of His
holy name.”**

Eph. 5:18, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom ~~x~~ resulting in teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” [~RD]

ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ
en pase sophia

**with (in association with) all wisdom
with reference to all wisdom
in the sphere of all wisdom**

Modifies “teaching and admonishing”

Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom resulting in teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” [~RD]

**διδάσκω *didaskō*
pres act part masc
plur nom
expresses result**

**to teach, instruct,
aims at the mind
rather than the will
or emotions**

**νουθετέω *noutheteō*
pres act part masc
plur nom**

**to warn, admonish,
correct, encourage,
urge,
Instruction aimed at
challenging the will.**

1 Cor. 10:31, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Modern refinements on the definition of Beauty

- 1. Unity or integrity of the parts to the whole.**
- 2. Proportion or harmony, orderly and harmonious relation and arrangement of the parts.**
- 3. Splendor: glorious, magnificent, without monotony or chaos.**

Ugly is the opposite of beauty

A lack of unity

A lack of form, order, and harmony

Chaotic

**Ecc. 3:11, “He has made everything
beautiful in its time.”**

יָפֵה *yāpeh* beautiful

The Bible uses a number of terms to express the beauty and excellence of God. These terms establish God as *THE* standard of beauty.

Thus—

God possesses *intrinsic* beauty which is the standard of all excellence, splendor, magnificence, beauty, and glory.

Scripture Words Which Describe Aesthetic Excellence:

- **Glorious**
- **Magnificent**
- **Majestic**
- **Splendid**
- **Beautiful**
- **Excellent**

Biblical Terms to Express the Beauty and Glory of God.

טוֹב (*tôb*) Good, pleasant, beautiful, delightful, glad, joyful, precious, correct, righteous. Gen. 6:2, 24:16

יָפָה (*yāphâ*) be fair, beautiful, handsome. Gen. 12:11, 12:14

צְבִי (*ṣ^ebî*) beauty, splendor, magnificent, Ezek. 20:6

הִדָּר (*hādar*) honor, adorn, glorify. 2 Chron. 20:21

Key Scriptures on God's Beauty

Gen. 1:31, “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”

טוֹב *tôb* “to be happy, to please, to be loved, to be favored, to seem good, to be acceptable, to endure, to be valuable, to do well, to do right”

WSOTDICT

HALOT: “merry, pleasant, desirable, in order, usable, qualitatively good, efficient, pleasing, beautiful, friendly, kind, good character, good value, brave, morally good, to please or enjoy oneself,”

DCH: “good, virtuous, kind, happy, content, healthy, prosperous, plentiful, well fed, well-disposed ...”

“It is also implied by the fact that the sense of the term *tov*, denoting a thing that is excellent of its kind, rules out the possibility that the assessment regards the mere subjective response to creation by either the writer or God himself. The use of *tov* in this narrative suggests not just personal delight or pleasure but an objective quality about creation itself, irrespective of any particular person’s response.”

~Leland Ryken

Standards:

- 1. Planned, orderly, thought through in every detail**
- 2. Technically excellent**
- 3. Moral integrity**
- 4. Purposeful**
- 5. Display both simplicity and complexity**
- 6. Resolution of the music**
- 7. Proportionality**
- 8. Originality**

“If it’s bad art, it’s bad religion, no matter how pious the subject.”

~Madeleine L’Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*

Beauty, magnificence, glory, splendor are not human-based concepts, but have an ultimate reference point in the eternal perfections of the Creator God, who is therefore the source of all Beauty.

From this it follows that all beauty within creation is beautiful because of its relationship to the intrinsic value within the character of the Creator God.

All was created beautiful and suffered corruption through the fall, thus our experience of beauty must always be understood to be under the influence of corrupt cultural values, and a corrupt heart.

The result is that singing in the church and in the worship of the Holy Creator God should not reflect the standards of fallen, corrupt human culture, but the standards exhibited in God's Word.

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And give thanks

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חַסִּידִים *chasid*

masc plur constr

faithful ones, pious or

holy one, saint

Psa. 30:4,

**“Sing praise to the Lord,
you saints of His,**

And give thanks [thankful praise]

at the remembrance of His holy name.”

חַסִּידִים *chasid*

masc plur constr

**faithful ones, pious or
holy one, saint**

יָדָה *yādâ*

**confess, praise,
give thanks,
thank**

**Psa. 30:1, “I will lift you up in praise, O Lord,
for You have drawn me up [like a bucket from a
well],
And have not let my foes rejoice over me.”**