

Theme: The Christian's perspective on man's strength and woman's beauty is in stark contrast to that of the culture surrounding us. That contrast should be readily evident, not only in our worship but also in our attitudes and choices in life.

Background: We turn from our focus in worship to our conduct there and beyond.

Introduction: Dr. Henry Krabbendam – Man and woman before and after the Fall. Presenting a differing set of "besetting sins."

I. A Prayerful People (8)

- A. From content to conduct
  - Tied directly to previous passage
- B. Praying everywhere
  - Everywhere they meet (all places)
  - Everywhere His name is exalted (Malachi 1:11)

II. A Man's Real Strength

- A. Not a matter of position
    - Standing, kneeling, bowing, prone
  - B. Lifting holy hands
    - 1. Prayer as a sacrifice of praise (Psalm 134:1-2)
    - 2. Clean hands for a clean heart
      - Washing as sign of cleansing (Psalm 26: 24:3, 4; Exodus 40:30-32)
    - 3. Coming in humility
  - C. Without contention!
    - Battles in Ephesus (1:4; 3:3; 6:5)
    - Maybe one of our besetting sins?
    - Hindering prayers, worship, witness, and fellowship (Matthew 5:23, 24; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:7)
- NOTE: Men must learn to pray with humility and purity of heart!!

III. A Woman's True Beauty (9, 10)

- A. Outward appearance?
  - Important then – and still important now
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> century peer pressure
    - a. Wealth in Ephesus on display
      - A besetting sin? Putting oneself first?
    - b. Ephesian immorality
      - Temple of Artemis and the prostitutes' provocative dress
  - NOTE: To follow their fashion was to essentially condone the (im)morality. It is inappropriate for worship – it is inappropriate for the bride of Christ!
  - NOTE: There is a big difference between attractive and provocative. The former isn't a problem. The culture pushes the latter.
  - 2. 21<sup>st</sup> century peer pressure
    - You must look like you are 20 even if you're 50.
    - You must look "sexy."
    - It will take time and money!
  - NOTE: If men should come to pray without stirring contention – women should come to pray without attracting attention – and show what true beauty is.
- B. Inward beauty

1. Respectable apparel
  - Honoring the One Whom you have come to worship
2. Modesty- Again – attractive, not provocative
  - Be careful with what the world says is "cute"
3. Self-control
  - Exercising good judgment, decency, chastity
4. Good works
  - These are appropriate for women who profess godliness
  - Clothed with compassion, kindness, gentleness
  - Caring for widows, orphans, the sick, the poor, the suffering
  - "Others" oriented, not self-oriented

#### IV. A Peculiar People (foreign to the culture)

- A. Outward beauty fades
  - Beautiful young women outwardly – But inwardly, too? (Proverbs 11:22)
  - It's time to learn – outward beauty will fade!
- B. Inward beauty shines!
  1. Clothed with godliness and good works
    - She becomes increasingly beautiful!
    - Beautiful women in the church (and they aren't 18)
  2. The beauty of godliness
    - Grows richer
    - It will never fade

#### Conclusion:

Women - Clothe yourselves with true and lasting beauty! (Proverbs 31:30)  
Young men - Find that woman!  
Older men - Lead in love and so encourage that beauty to grow and shine.