



Dear Friends,

Last night, as we were making our way to church, the moon was just appearing over the mountains. It was late afternoon, just before dusk. I couldn't stop looking at it (no I wasn't the one driving!). It was full and glowing and utterly beautiful. I found my soul being satisfied as if I had just eaten something delicious.

Beauty does something for us. It can nourish hope and joy and peace. But it can also become misplaced, oppressive, and destructive. Let me explain. Think about how our culture defines beauty. Yes it will celebrate the beauty of a mother's love for a newborn child, or a generous act, but it will also obsessively glorify a physically beautiful woman (whatever that current look is). So if you and I don't fit within the current look, we are categorized as non-beautiful, therefore non-valuable. How sad. But that is the world we live in.

What is also sad is that many of us women, Christian or not, don't even realize that we spend much of our time trying to measure up to the current beautiful look. We have bought into the belief that our value comes from our outward beauty.

How true is this for you, for your daughters, for your wife (if you are a guy reading this), or for your friends? What are the signs that you have bought into the beauty=value belief?

I have the privilege of mentoring **Brittany**, an intern from Columbia Bible College this year.^[1] This wonderful young woman has been given an assignment from God to **help women embrace their true beauty**. Because I have been bragging on all of you and your commitment to accepting God's love for you and sharing that love with others, we decided to get you to help us with our research on beauty. We have come up with a survey to help us understand where women are at.

I am asking you to fill out the survey for two reasons. First, your contribution to the survey will help us determine where to focus our energies. Second, by going through the survey questions you just might see yourself in a new light and make the determination to allow God to work in your life in a whole new way.

So please help us out and yourself too by completing the survey - click here: [Beauty Survey](#)
And send the link to all your friends as well.

I just thought of another reason for including you in this research. Consider using it as a conversation starter with your daughters or nieces or small groups or ... well the possibilities

are endless. You might be surprised at how similar women really are no matter the age or circumstance.

I pray that all of us will focus less and less on what our culture says is beautiful and more and more on our beautiful God and what he says is beautiful. This song came to mind. May Jesus' beauty always take our breath away!!!

I STAND IN AWE OF YOU – To listen on YouTube [click here](#)

You are beautiful beyond description, Too marvelous for words

Too wonderful for comprehension, Like nothing ever seen or heard

Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom, Who can fathom the depths of Your love

You are beautiful beyond description, Majesty, enthroned above

And I stand, I stand in awe of You, I stand, I stand in awe of You

Holy God to whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of You

Blessings from Bev



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