

# Mirror, Mirror on the wall - If my husband cared I'd be appalled



Feeling badly is a problem that affects not only our physical well-being, but also our appearance. So...let's get real. How much pain, suffering, and surgery should we be willing to go through to change our physical appearance?

Oh, I know, it's tempting for some of us to say immediately, "We're Christians, and Christians don't need that, because a Christian husband is not going to stray, so Christian women shouldn't go through plastic surgery just to be more attractive, just to keep their husband's attention. That's silly. After all, they're supposed to be happy in the Lord." Okay...let's keep talking.

**What did Paul say?** In 1 Timothy 2:9 *"...that women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly attire, but by good deeds, as befits women who profess religion?"*

Yes, Paul did say that. Still, we need to realize that the answer to this week's question differs for each individual. You would have a hard time convincing a pastor's, deacon's, or ministry leader's wife, who has dealt with infidelity in her marriage, that physical appearance doesn't matter because her Christian husband/pastor/deacon/leader is not going to stray. After all, he's not supposed to notice the beauty of other women. HELLO!! Is he blind just because he's a believer? Isn't Satan roaming, waiting to pinpoint those who are more susceptible to this type of testing?

**What else did Paul say?** 1 Corinthians 10:23 says *"Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial."* Yes, he said everything is permissible – but not everything is constructive. And look at the big goal in verse 31 *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."* What do we call this? Some call it a gray area. But, let's look at it again.

The verse in 1 Timothy 2:9 ends with *"... as befits women who profess religion."* Profession is not relationship; but, ladies, if we have relationship with God, the desire of our hearts will be what is pleasing to God. Whatever we do can be more effective in bringing glory to God if we are comfortable with our physical appearance while we're doing it.

So ... should we consider plastic surgery, a facelift, cosmetic dentistry? One thing we can all agree on is that IF we are considering doing something very invasive, we should go to the Lord in prayer and ask "WHY do I want to have this procedure? WHAT is my motive?" If it is something that keeps you physically or emotionally from being all that you can be for God then it may be a spiritually-sound decision.

For instance, many years ago I had to have surgery on my sinuses. Now... I know I have the Crump nose... my daddy's nose. It's a very prominent nose (that means long) and, being the fine Christian pastor he is, he always said the reason it was so prominent (again ... long) was because he kept it out of other people's business and let it grow.

Anyway... when I had my sinus operation, I had the doctor take a little length out of my nose. So, don't think my nose is not long because I have it in other people's business all the time. If you could see how long (that means prominent) it really is you'd think I was related to Pinocchio.



While I'm in the mood for true confessions, I also had veneers put on my front teeth, because I have what I call "picket-fence" teeth. All of my front teeth have a little space between them so that it looks like I have a white picket-fence in my mouth. I guess we call this cosmetic dentistry. At least that's what my insurance company called it; that way, they didn't have to pay!

The real question is WHY do we do these things. In my case, it kept me from being so self-conscious about my nose and my teeth. Since I teach, preach, speak, sing, and work with the public every day, it has improved my self-esteem and confidence in my appearance greatly. In fact, I never think about my nose or my teeth at all anymore. I am able to just move forward with my life and ministry without wasting time thinking about whether my teeth, or my nose, are a distraction to others as I strive to impact the Kingdom of God.

Again, I believe what's important is the WHY? There is a right reason, and a wrong reason to have plastic surgery. It is always wrong if we do it thinking our physical appearance is what matters most!

People who go into the operating room with this thinking quickly realize, after all the pain and suffering, that it was NOT the answer for the lack in their lives. The only time changing our physical appearance is the answer is WHEN it helps our "healthy self" that is inside to be released spiritually and emotionally.

It's not wise to think our husbands will stay with us because we have breast implants, or a facelift. So, what are the limits to this Extreme Makeover we're talking about? We'll talk about it more next week.

### *Take a look in the mirror...*

1. Do I feel I need some sort of physical enhancement? If there is more than one area of need, which would take priority? Why?
2. Why would I consider making this change?
3. Would doing so promote me spiritually and emotionally to more effectively fulfill my divine destiny?

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