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## Soul Deep

By I. David Harris, asst. registrar



God looks on the inward parts

*"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." -1 Peter 3:3, 4*

You have heard it said that beauty is skin deep, but I say unto you that it is soul deep. With the overwhelming advances of technology, people that are dissatisfied with their appearance can buy a new one. In pursuit of what many consider beauty, cosmetic surgery has become less of a necessity and more of a glamorous luxury.

Whatever the anatomical feature people are dissatisfied with; it can be modified with the right amount of time, and money. Extreme makeovers; artificial additions such as unnatural colors of makeup, jewelry, and a number of other appearance-changing devices, are being used by those who think that beauty is mostly outward appearance. They may disagree with that statement, but unfortunately, their actions say otherwise.

Much can be said of many of the procedures and devices mentioned above that are used for those who have suffered through appearance-altering accidents and other defects. Perhaps, to produce a level of self-satisfaction in these dear ones, a surgeon's talents can be used to bless them.

Is beauty merely skin-deep? I know the cliché is usually used to make a positive statement. It means that we should not

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40 events

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Weather in our Nation's Capital



35° F  
Partly Cloudy  
Wind 18 mph from the Northwest  
Humidity 47%

focus so much on the outside because at any moment things could change drastically. Though this is true, the statement does not communicate this fact very well. It suggests that when the level of skin is penetrated, that the beauty disappears. What does God have to say about all of this?

"But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (1 Peter 3:4) If we rely on outward appearances for true godly beauty, we are light years away from what God has in mind. He said that beauty is about the hidden person--the space behind your face.

Beauty to God is in possessing humility of heart and a continual spirit of worship that draws people to Christ. Godly beauty is being a witness to someone in order that they might be saved. "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10: 15.) With God, beauty is not skin deep; it is soul deep.

*L. David Harris, CUC's assistant registrar, is the author of "Know Peace Within—A Life in Transition," and a two-volume set titled "Alive at 5—Victory in Retrospect." For more information on these books, visit [www.aliveatfive.com](http://www.aliveatfive.com) or [www.knowpeacewithin.com](http://www.knowpeacewithin.com)*

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7600 Flower Avenue ■ Takoma Park, Maryland 20912 ■ 301 891 4000 ■ [info@cuc.edu](mailto:info@cuc.edu)