

## **Exchange 22 March 2014 Discussion Questions: “Beauty and the Beast”**

Think of a thing or a person that you think is beautiful. What is it about that thing/person that attracts you?

What examples of beauty do we see in nature? What does this tell us about God’s artistic or creative side? Is God interested in aesthetics?

What does God think is beautiful? Is there a difference between the way God values beauty and the way we do?

### ***personal/social***

Should we care about how we look? Where is the balance between caring for ourselves and being anxious or vain?

As a community, should we have standards for modesty, health, hygiene, or should we promote a complete ‘come as you are’ approach?

Does God value outward appearance? Does he *use* outward appearance?

### ***media***

Are there different definitions of beauty? When we speak of beauty in nature, is it based on the same criteria as when we speak of the media’s portrayal of beautiful people. How is the beauty of a movie star different from the beauty of a tree?

How does the media affect our perceptions of beauty and how we think about ourselves and others? Do we in turn, as consumers, have an influence on the content of mainstream media and how beauty is portrayed?

Conversations about society’s standards of beauty often center on women. How has the pressure of being attractive affected men? Do you think this issue is adequately addressed in public discourse?

How does Jesus’ appearance affect how we think about him? Are we comfortable with pictures of Jesus that do not fit our standards of beauty?

### ***fashion***

In the US, there is an annual Christian Fashion week. What kind of clothes spring to mind when you think of that runway? What role does fashion play when we think of beauty, and how should Christians relate to the fashion industry?

There is a wide range of expectations about modesty across different religions, cultures and generations. Is there an absolute standard for modesty that applies across the board?

### ***last thought***

Will we all become beautiful when Jesus returns? What does it mean to be made perfect and ‘incorruptible’ in God’s eyes? (cf 1 Cor 15:51-53)