



StoneBridge
School

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FORGES

COMMUNICATORS

*who write persuasively
and speak effectively.*

*“But godliness
with contentment is
great gain.”*

— 1 TIMOTHY 6:6 —

A Biblical Worldview of Fame

— Lauren Elliott, DEAN'S AWARD WINNER —

FAME IS GAINING SUCCESS OR NOTORIETY. How can someone go from “nobody” to “somebody” in the world’s eyes? This can happen by a teenager posting one Youtube video, or writing one song. The point is that one action can turn us into the world’s definition of “famous,” when it used to not be that way. The challenge of fame is either it changes us, or we feel we need to change because of fame. The sad part of this theory is that some kids want their lives to be changed like celebrities and because of this desire, Jake Halpern’s survey confirms that today, Jennifer Lopez is considered more famous than Jesus to middle and high school students. This is because they feel an emptiness inside of them that, because their friends look up to celebrities, they feel popularity could be a solution to the emptiness inside of them. Jake Halpern’s survey about fame had many different sections, one of them concluding that it is mostly lonely kids that aspire to be like celebrities. **However, the goal of Christians, young or old, should be to make being a Christian the new popular, rather than emulating the popular.** This is the goal of Hillsong United, a Christian band, who speak of this in their song From the Inside Out, stating “Everlasting, Your [God’s] light will shine when all else fades, never ending, Your [God’s] glory goes beyond all fame.” Instead of being ashamed about our faith, we should, at a young age, ask ourselves if “prayer is our steering wheel or our spare tire.” The main thing that helped people like Lisa Whelchel, Tony Dungy, Bailee Madison, and Anne Lamott stay strong believers despite their social placement was building a strong Christian foundation in Christ. In an interview with Lisa Whelchel, she said that she was very grateful to God for blessing her with finding the true source of joy when she was 10, when other kids don’t have that same privilege and look for it their whole lives. Another way to live out these principles of building a foundation on Jesus is to be content in your current situation, so when your situations change, you will stay strong in God. Some ways to be content in God is to be confident in His plan and sovereign will for your life, and trust in His divine provision. This is supported by 1 Timothy 6:6, saying, “but godliness with contentment is great gain”, and Philippians 4:12-13, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” Even though you might be a “nobody” in the world’s eyes, you will always be a “somebody” in God’s eyes, and we should work on maintaining God being a “somebody” in our lives.

Being faithful to our biblical worldview of fame is the key to “surviving fame.” We should constantly be working on building a strong Christian foundation. This is to help us persevere through temptation while “living the American dream.” Lisa Whelchel stayed strong to her Christian faith and morals, confronting her director and defending her beliefs. Although she didn’t know what the final result would be, it ended well, with her being able to do what she believed in. ✨

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*“... let your adorning
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— 1 PETER 3:4 —

A Biblical Worldview of Beauty

— Emmie Plumlee, DEAN’S AWARD HONORABLE MENTION —

EVEN AT YOUNG AGES, people are led to believe that beauty is everything. Women are under the impression that slimmer is better, and lots of makeup, white teeth, etc. are all necessary beauty trends needed to “be beautiful.” Men are also told that more muscular and fitter are better. Most people are led into believing these things because the world’s standards for beauty are advertised everywhere and people feel that they have to match up to them. This message is advertised on billboard signs, television, magazines, and even through toys. The world’s standard of beauty is how Satan keeps us from understanding God’s design for beauty. Most people won’t say that they are striving to look like the latest beautiful model, but they say it through their actions and the standards that they set for themselves to become beautiful like the models they see. This is discouraging because the secular standard of beauty is unachievable. The New World Dictionary defines beauty as “the quality of being very pleasing ... good looks, a very attractive person, feature, etc.” This is greatly contrasted to the Biblical definition of beauty which can be found in Webster’s 1828 Dictionary. In Webster’s 1828 Dictionary, beauty is defined as “Joy and gladness. Order, prosperity, peace, holiness.” The main difference between these two definitions is that the New World Dictionary’s definition (secular) pertains to the outward appearance, while the 1828 definition refers to the internal qualities. 1 Peter 3:3-4 says, “Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gently and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.” God does not care about what we look like but rather what we act like. It is important to remember that our physical attributes will mean nothing in heaven, but our attitude and internal qualities will be all that matter. **In God’s eyes, we become beautiful by applying the word and knowing we are uniquely created by Him.** Eleanor Roosevelt said this, “No matter how plain a woman may be, if truth and honesty are written on her face, she will be beautiful.”

In conclusion, beauty to the secular world is everything. Through marketing ads, society basically tells us if you’re not pretty, you’re worthless. It makes people go to extreme measures to try to attain the standard, which we know is unattainable. It causes them to become vain, immodest, and without confidence. We need to make sure we do not get caught up in what the world sees on the outside, but what God sees on the inside, being confident in who we are in Him. ✨

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