

**An Ornament for Christ—
How Are You Hanging?
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"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

When we think of ornaments something beautiful usually comes to mind. Shiny, bright, glistening, sparkling, and pretty are just a few words we use to describe them. The dictionary meaning from Webster says that an ornament is "anything serving to adorn; decoration; embellishment."

How well do we embellish the body of Christ? Our verse in 1 Peter says,

*"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."*

That verse starts with the word "But" which means **b**-ack **u**-p **t**-here. We have to check the proceeding verses to see what it means. Verses 1 and 2 are talking about being in submission to our husbands, especially in regard to those unsaved husbands. Your conversation or how you live your life is on display. If you have an unsaved husband, he is watching your life.

*"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands;
that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word
be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold
your chaste conversation coupled with fear." (vs. 2)*

On into verse 3 it talks about our adorning and how it is not to be that of doing things to our outside such as "plaiting the hair" or "wearing gold" but next in verse 4 it says "But let it be the hidden man of the heart". The heart is where we should be adorning ourselves.

*"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." (vs. 3)*

Peter isn't saying don't fix your hair and don't wear gold. He is stressing that the external stuff is not important but what is in the heart is because other lives depend on how we act from our hearts. Referring back to verse 2, there are unsaved people and unsaved husbands watching our lives. In verse 5 it says,

*"For after this manner in the old time the holy women also,
who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection
unto their own husbands". (vs. 5)*

How we adorn ourselves on the outside wasn't the issue here. It was how we adorn our hearts. Don't think about the external, because our family, friends, and people we meet are looking at our hearts and how we act, live, and behave.

Everything we say and do comes from our heart. Just like a Christmas ornament, hanging on a tree, our lives are dangling out there for others to see. How well do we embellish, adorn, and serve the body of Christ?

What type of ornament are you?

A Tarnished Ornament. Have you seen those Christmas ornaments that are beautiful, you pick them up and all the paint, and glitter comes off in your hand? Are you that way? Have you been rubbed the wrong way a few times? Has the bad air hit you so much that you've become tarnished and lost your luster? Someone's said something to you and just peeled off all your paint and joy? Maybe you've been slighted by another Christian or had a disagreement with a friend and never made up with them. That paint and glitter has come rolling off you and your heart life shows signs of wear.

An Ugly Ornament. There are just some ornaments that are just that, plain ugly! You may not be ugly on the outside but inside there's some sad ugliness. Got an ugly attitude? Do you speak ugly words? Do you wear ugly expressions? Do you just reflect ugliness? These types of ornaments hang on the tree all by themselves because nobody wants to be around them.

A Broken Ornament. Are you broken and falling apart? Some people just radiate the fact that their life has problems. In reality we all have problems but we all don't wear those problems as our wardrobe like some. You can't ask these ornaments to participate in anything because there might be a catastrophe in their lives. Not that we all don't go through trials but sometimes they are trials of our own makings. We get our lives all broken and falling apart because we don't have our priorities in the right place or we don't depend on Christ as we should. In turn we get cracked and broken because we're trying to hold ourselves together on our own.

A Packed Away Ornament. These ornaments no longer are useful and are packed away in a box, put up in the attic or a shelf in the closet and are never used again. Got some dust on you? Can you feel the cobwebs just crisscrossing your spiritual life? Stopped reading your Bible? Stopped praying? Stopped witnessing? This doesn't happen all at once. It usually happens little by little, losing a little luster here, a little crack there, something broke off of you there, and pretty soon you find yourself on the shelf. You've moved farther and farther from fellowship with Christ. You're a Christian but your heart doesn't reflect it. This type of ornament scares me the most. Never doing anything for Christ. Not only would it be a boring life but it would also be such an unhappy and lonely one as well.

A Perfect Ornament. This is the type of ornament we all would like to strive to be. The kind that builds up the body of Christ and reflects all that is lovely. An ornament that beautifies and adorns.

"An ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"

Oh to have the right kind of heart. Meek in that we have a patient, and mild heart that God can work in. A quiet spirit in that we let God take control. We let Him be in charge of our hearts and lives. There are so many verses in the Bible that comes back to the heart and how it is the reflection of what we are. What we keep in our heart is so important. It has to be filled with godly things in order to embellish and adorn the body of Christ properly.

*"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" Ephesians 5:19*

*...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.
A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth
forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil
treasure bringeth forth evil things." Matthew 12:34,35*

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37

We can choose how we embellish and adorn the body of Christ by how we act as a reflection of what's in our hearts. As Christians, we are some kind of ornament, whether it is good or bad, dangling for all to see.

So, how are you hanging?