

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#45) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:22- Cosmetics Without Character!

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 11:22:

As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

God described His relationship with the Jews as one giving His wife finery, including "jewel in your nose" (**Ezekiel 13:10-16**). In His prediction of His punishment on His people, the Jews, God listed what they would lose, including "the nose jewels" (**Isaiah 3:18-23**). A "ring of gold" would have been intended for a sign of an intimate relationship between a husband and wife (**Genesis 24:45-48**). It was never intended for a "swine!"

- Under Moses' Law, "swine" were unclean, not to be eaten or touched when dead (**Deuteronomy 14:8**);
- Jesus taught pearls were not to be cast before them (**Matthew 7:6**);
- Jesus cast demons into a "herd of many swine" (**Matthew 8:30-32**); and
- Jesus taught a Jewish man had entered the depths of depravity who "would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate." (**Luke 15:15-16**).

"A gold ring in a swine's snout" not only was useless, but wasted, as well!

"A lovely woman" has wasted her beauty who does not develop "discretion" (good judgment, sound reasoning). "Discretion" should also be found in "young men" (**Proverbs 1:4**), developing slow anger (**Proverbs 19:11**), and represents the planning God put into "the heavens" (**Jeremiah 10:12**). King Ahasuerus, whose heart "was merry with wine," commanded Queen Vashti to "show her beauty" for "she was beautiful to behold" (**Esther 1:10-12**), but she "refused." She showed "discretion" even though the word is not used in this passage!

It is true that "beauty is passing" (**Proverbs 31:30**), and a tragedy of womanhood seems to be those who work on their outside to be seen as attractive, while having

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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the character of a rotting corpse! The runway models, singers, actresses, and other entertainers, who emphasize all their womanly charms, frequently show their ignorance of what God made a woman to be, by their actions! God made a woman to fill the deep need for close companionship in a man through marriage ([Genesis 2:18-25](#)), not to free herself to do every vile sin perverse men could do!

Good looks are wasted on any woman who is equal to men in sin by: cursing, drinking, drugs, violence, fornication before marriage, adultery after marriage, without conscience, and without natural affection for her husband and children. Good looks are wasted on the kind of woman Solomon has already warned a “son” to completely avoid ([Proverbs 2:16-22](#); [5:1-20](#); [6:20-35](#); [7:6-27](#))!

“Discretion” is seen in Christian women who learn to “love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands” ([Titus 2:4-5](#)), and who learn how to dress appropriately at all times ([1 Timothy 2:9-10](#)). All women are truly beautiful who emphasize “the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God” ([1 Peter 3:1-6, verse 4](#)). There is no amount of make-up, perfume, sexy clothing, hairstyles, or aggressive behavior that can successfully hide the lack of “discretion!”

Only by repenting and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ([Acts 2:38](#)) can the real beauty treatments begin to develop the “new” beautiful person within ([Colossians 3:1-17](#)).

