

GOD IS BEAUTIFUL!



BEAUTY IS GOD!

INTRODUCTION: *Beauty is in the eye of the beholder!*

The ancient Greeks saw *Beauty* as one of God's several attributes including the Good, the Truth, Justice, and John the Beloved adds from his Gospel, Love.

In this series, I would like to explore the different ways that Beauty reflect God using several sources that I have come across recently: *Give Us This Day* publications, *The Catholic Telegraph Magazine* issue 2 with several articles, *Practicing Beauty* by R. S. Goizueta in "*Invitation to Practical Theology*", *Emmy Noether's Beautiful Theorem* in "*When Einstein Walked with Godel*" by Jim Holt, *The Ontological Status of the Beautiful* and *The Desire for Perfect Beauty* in "*New Proofs for the Existence of God*" by R. J. Spitzer. As you can see, there are several ways of defining or realizing beauty whether in Philosophy, Art, or even in Math! My hope is that you will find something that piques your interest in Beauty is God.

Let me start with a simple article that appeared among the dozen in *The Catholic Telegraph Magazine*, issue 2, February 2021, *Art and Beauty* (they were quite artsy by not using any capital letters), titled - *If We Lose Beauty, We Lose Our Spiritual Sight*, by Dr. Mary Catherine Levri.

Dr. Levri writes, "To some, beauty might seem to be superfluous...But I maintain that if we lose beauty, then we will lose our spiritual sight...we will cease to have reverence for the presence of God." I totally agree with her and would add that

beauty hints at the presence of God, and even God hinting to us of his presence! She also hints at this in the very last line of her article, "For when beauty calls, we can be sure that the Lord is very close at hand."

My hope through these series of articles on the above sources is to do just that, show that not only is God Beautiful, but that *Beauty* is one of God's Attributes! We will find out in this series that beauty can be defined more than just by artists, but also by philosophers and mathematicians.

She warns us in her article that beauty seems to be perceived more and more a thing of the past attributed to the loss of spiritual sight, "...but also to a sense of fear." That is a surprise, 'fear'? Yes, because she says that beauty can also be a mirror! And she quotes Simone Weil, that beauty "sends us back to our own desire for goodness." Beauty reminds us that we ourselves may have fallen short of it, and some would rather just break the mirror before even taking the chance to look.

Hopefully, you will journey with me and not break the mirror but take the look. The reward is that "Every gaze upon a beautiful object - or beautiful person - prepares us to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord." This is where the connection to God again comes in, "Each and every one of us is a beautiful creature, made in the image and likeness of God, with a heart that cries out to be filled with His presence." She points us in the way that we will be taking in this series that "...beauty is not merely an idea; it is an incarnate sign of the presence of God." There it is, God is beautiful, Beautiful is God, or certainly an attribute. That is what we will be looking for in the different sources and meanings of beauty. Please come and join me.