"Summary" Week Ten Summary:

We have a God who loves Beauty. In fact, He is the author and creator of Beauty. Beauty is one of his best things. Everywhere we look in creation, we see breathtaking Beauty. The universe itself is stunning in its beauty—even the scientists who study the Cosmos call it "elegant." And God tells us the purpose of all this beauty in Psalm 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Beauty in creation exists to bring glory to the Creator. When God created Woman, he made something beautiful indeed. And, it's part of His plan that men are attracted to their wives' feminine beauty. The Song of Solomon is full of references to the beauty of the Beloved. Beauty is a very good thing.

However, like many good things God created, female beauty has been bent and twisted away from the Creator's original intent by Depravity. Our beauty, like all beauty, should bring glory to God. But we have twisted things around so that a woman's beauty brings glory to *herself*, whether via the sexual interest of men or the admiration of other women. In fact, for many of us, our entire worth as human beings is wrapped up in whether or not we are beautiful. This is the heart of one of the major Battlefields of Depravity for women. *We tend to place a high emphasis on external beauty and ignore the need for internal beauty*.

Scripture tells us that God is less concerned with what we look like than he is with our character, and He asks us to share that priority with Him. External Beauty, as fine as it is, is corrupted and will decay (Proverbs says it is fleeting). But, Internal Beauty grows more radiant with age. No matter how little value we *think* we put on beauty, all of us spend a certain amount of time on the care and maintenance of our physical bodies. Rare indeed is the woman who spends an equal amount of time on the development of a beautiful, godly character.