You are Beautifully and Wonderfully Made

Psalm 139:14

The impact of European beauty standards on Black people is a pervasive and profound issue that has been largely ignored for far too long. It is an insidious force that diminishes our inherent worth and beauty. This philosophy constantly bombards us with images and messages that push a single narrative – that our skin, our hair, and our features, are somehow less desirable, and less beautiful than the rest of the world. Yet, it is crucial to remember that these standards are not true, but rather a socially constructed idea that has been perpetuated over time.

Psalms 139:14 serves as a powerful reminder to all Black individuals – "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." This scripture underscores the fundamental truth that each of us has been crafted by the divine hand of God. God intricately and intimately created us in our mother's womb. Our features are not mistakes or defects but the intentional creation of a loving God who saw fit to paint us with the most beautiful shades of Black.

The Bible does not shy away from affirming our beauty and worth. Indeed, it provides a roadmap for us to navigate societal pressures and biases, urging us to embrace our unique beauty and find strength in our identity.

The story of Queen Esther stands as a testament to this. Esther was not just a woman of remarkable beauty; she was strong, intelligent, and brave. She used her unique beauty and position not for personal gain, but to save her people. We must follow in her footsteps, using our unique beauty and strength to lift ourselves and our communities. Likewise, the Song of Solomon celebrates the beauty of the Shulamite woman who is described as "dark but lovely." The woman's skin color is referenced repeatedly throughout the song, emphasizing its attraction and beauty. The Song of Solomon serves as a divine affirmation of Black beauty, challenging societal norms and biases. It serves to remind us that we are beautiful, not in spite of our blackness, but because of it.

In a world that often seeks to make us feel inadequate, let us not forget these scriptures. Let them serve as reminders of our divine origin and inherent beauty. Let them inspire us to embrace our unique features and reject the narrow confines of societal beauty standards. We are fearfully and wonderfully made, and our beauty is a testament to that. We must continue to affirm our worth, celebrate our unique beauty, and empower ourselves and others to do the same. For you are beautifully and wonderfully made.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool