If you've ever wondered why I don't wear makeup

by Laura Searles

     I don't feel the need to put things that are foreign on my face to make myself look more "beautiful."  I don't want to put on something that could prohibit me from touching my face, or worry me if I cry, whether from joy or sorrow.  My face may not be perfect and I may have wrinkles around my eyes, a couple freckles awkwardly around my face, or even a mole underneath the right side of my lower lip.  I try to see, in my mind, that wrinkles show that you laugh a lot, and freckles show that you've been outside enjoying God's creation.

     Absolutely no one has a perfect face. We all have our little quirks: the dark spots or thin eyebrows that we feel self-conscious about. We constantly compare ourselves to others and see what we lack. The magazines are full of pictures of what the "perfect face" should look like. We are taught from an early age to look at the woman who spent hours making herself look "perfect" with admiration and envy, and look at the woman who has no makeup on with the thoughts, "Well, she could have at least made herself presentable..." The world jams our heads full of images that aren't necessarily us, and to compensate for our imperfections, we try to "fix" some of the quirks that we possess to smooth over our complexion or perfect our eyebrows or cover up that mole on our face. Do we ever wonder what would happen if everyone didn't compare themselves to others? or we didn't feel the need to wear makeup to feel beautiful? Or what would happen if we looked to God? Would we ever feel ugly? No! He never made anything that wasn't exceedingly "good" and wonderful in His eyes!

     I'm not saying that it's bad to wear makeup, and it's fun to go out to a party looking what you think is your best. However, for me, whenever I put makeup on my face, I feel like it's always for a show. Maybe that stems from wearing makeup for the first time in my first musical...Regardless, whether I am onstage as a completely different person, or trying to be pretty for a boy that I think I like, or for friends, it sometimes feels like my face isn't really "me." When I put on makeup, it feels like I change a tiny bit of who I am to a stranger, a different person that is a tiny bit vainer than my previous personality is/was.  Though I might feel a little more confident in myself, I begin to think more along the lines of "I, myself, created my beauty." I am selfish. I know that I am.  I take credit when it isn't mine to take.  God should get all of the credit for any beauty people see in me, because He is the one that puts the Holy Spirit in people and makes them beautiful, but I seldom actually give any credit to him.

     It isn't wrong to be confident in yourself, because, believe me, I know that putting on makeup makes many people feel good about themselves and beautiful. However, the reason that I don't wear makeup, is that I don't want to look in the mirror one day and say, "Oh! Look what a beautiful face I have because of all this makeup. I did a great job today! But tonight, when I take it off, I'll be ugly again, just as normal." No. I want to look in the mirror every day and say, "God, I know that I am beautiful by your standards, and I am a piece of art. Help me to ignore what the world says about how I should look, and help me to know that I am beautiful in Spirit and in Truth. Grant that I may see the beauty in all of your creation. Thank you for your grace and blessings and help Your Spirit to shine through me, so that others might know of Your grace and love and the beauty that You place in everyone."

     Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If you imagine that the beholder is God, you will find it a lot easier to love yourself for who you are and what you look like.  In the end, everyone will realize that the most beautiful people are the ones that wear the most joyous smile because they are living for the Holy Spirit, not the ones who are stuck on how they appear to others in the world.  In reality, the only "beholder" that matters is GOD.