Don't hate me because I'm beautiful
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I often peruse news web sites in the evening just to see what everyone else is talking about and, of course, see what strange and bizarre events occurred.

I came across the tidbit about teen/tween girls posting self-polls asking viewers if they are attractive.

I found this very disturbing on many levels. Why are these young girls seeking the approval of their physical attributes from strangers? Technology is wonderful and/or horrible depending on who has it and how it is used.

There have been web sites around for years. I remember "Hot or Not" where kids would put pictures of themselves on the site and others would rate them from 1-10.

Their mothers were shocked. Yeah. They should be. Monitoring a child's Internet access and use is imperative in this world. You never know who your child could let into your home. We've all seen the news stories. It can be tragic.

I find this trend tragic, as well.
We all know outside beauty is skin deep but we are bombarded daily by svelte models telling us you have to be skinny to get attention and if you don't use this lipstick or wear that outfit, you'll never fit in.

As adults, most of us know this is not true. We know the value of ourselves is what we have to offer — our talents and our minds.
Kids are different. Don't you remember what it was like to be young and vulnerable? The uncertainty. Never knowing if you're doing things right and fearing someone watching and then making fun or even worse, telling everyone? The nervous excitement and the dread; the bullies and the teachers and the other students and the social awkwardness?

Parents need to be engaged. Kids are looking far outside the family unit for approval. They are

desperately seeking validation for who they are why they are here.

What is even sadder is that we, as a society, do value pretty over not so much. We do treat people differently based on how they look. We fawn over movie stars and ogle models and wish we were more like them. We aren't teenage girls, either.

I watched a TV program once where a beautiful woman was put in a fat suit and went out and about. At one point, she dropped a glove and no one passing by bent down to pick it up. They all watched as she struggled to do it.

She took off the fat suit and did the same thing and people fell over themselves, women included, to make sure she got her glove back.

She said she found the experience very enlightening and quite disturbing.

No, not everyone is beautiful. I am not really referring to just looks. People can be pretty but have a terrible personality that makes them a lot less attractive. A lot of people are a whole lot easier to be around until they open their mouths.

Kids should not have to wonder if they are cute or ugly or if some stranger finds them attractive. All kids are beautiful because they represent our hope and our future. We need to nurture them.

Do you remember the commercial with Kelly LeBrock: "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful?" I always replied back at the TV: "I don't. I hate you because you are conceited."

I didn't really hate her. I just found the whole premise ridiculous.

See what I mean? We don't send the right message to our kids or each other for that matter.