

## What Will Relationships Be Like In Heaven?

Message 2 of 5 in the series: "Heaven"

### A. The Bible says we are supposed to set our minds on the realities of heaven.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:1-2 (NKJV)

1. Setting our minds on Heaven will necessarily impact our relationships on earth.

"...Our **Father in heaven**, Hallowed be Your name. **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. For **if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.** But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:9-15 (NKJV)

2. When we study what the Bible has to say about Heaven, we can be confident we are setting our minds on what is true.

"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. **I have given them your word.** And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. **Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.**" John 17:13-17 (NLT)

### B. What will relationships be like in Heaven?

1. In Heaven, we will be joyfully reunited with our loved ones who have died in the Lord.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died **so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.** For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, **God will bring back with him the believers who have died...** Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. **So encourage each other with these words.**" 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NLT)

*Note:* We will recognize people in Heaven. We will still have our identities. "...Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, two men, **Moses and Elijah**, appeared and began talking with Jesus. They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem. Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, 'Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for **Moses, and one for Elijah.**'" Luke 9:28-33 (NLT)

*Note:* We will remember our lives on earth. There will be no crying, sorrow, or pain in Heaven in spite of painful relationships and horrible experiences on earth because we will have God's perspective on everything. "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

**Life Application:** Setting our minds on Heaven can change our perspective and bring us peace and comfort right now! "For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen.** For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

2. In Heaven, we will be one big family with believers from every nation, tribe, people, and time period.

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among **many brothers and sisters.**" Romans 8:29 (NLT)

"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm

branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, 'Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!'" Revelation 7:9-10 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Setting our minds on Heaven will allow us to look at people from other nations, races, and generations as potential brothers and sisters in Christ. "And I tell you this, that **many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 8:11 (NLT)

3. In Heaven, every relationship will be far better than the best marriage on earth.

"...**when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage.** In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven." Matthew 22:30 (NLT)

**Note:** God designed marriage in this world to point us to a better reality in heaven. "...'A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' This is a great mystery, but **it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.**" Ephesians 5:31-32 (NLT)

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Jesus doesn't want us to wait until Heaven to start loving each other. "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 (NLT)

4. In Heaven, our personal relationship with God will be taken to the highest level possible.

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; **then we shall see face to face.** Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 (NIV)

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for **we shall see Him as He is.**" 1 John 3:2 (NKJV)

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### Connect Group Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 & 1 John 3:2. What do you think it will be like to meet Jesus face to face in Heaven?
2. Read Matthew 8:11 & Revelation 7:9-10. Other than Jesus, who do you look forward to meeting in Heaven?
3. Discuss the following statements:
  - We will recognize people in Heaven. We will still have our identities. (Luke 9:28-33)
  - We will remember our lives on earth. There will be no crying, sorrow, or pain in Heaven in spite of painful relationships and horrible experiences on earth because we will have God's perspective on everything. (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28 & 12:2)
  - We will be one big happy family in Heaven with believers from every nation, tribe, people, and time period. (Romans 8:29, John 1:12)
  - Every relationship in Heaven will be far better than the best marriage on earth. (Ephesians 5:21-32, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
4. How should thinking about Heaven impact our lives right now? (Colossians 3:1-2, Matthew 6:9-15, John 13:34-35, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
5. Discuss the following quotations:

"Those whom you laid in the grave with many tears are in good keeping; you will see them again with joy. Believe it, think it, rest on it. It is all true." Bishop Ryle

"The man who is about to set sail for Australia or New Zealand as a settler, is naturally anxious to know something about his future home, its climate, its employments, its inhabitants, its ways, its customs...It would be strange indeed if you did not desire information about your new abode...Before we go to our eternal home, we should try to become acquainted with it." J.C. Ryle

"There shall be no such thing as flattery or insincerity in heaven...Everyone will be just what he seems to be, and will really have all the love he seems to have...every expression of love shall come from the bottom of the heart, and all that is professed shall be really and truly felt." Jonathan Edwards

Great Resource: **Heaven**, by Randy Alcorn. Tyndale Publishers, 2004.