

QUESTION #40 – When we are in heaven will we want any relationship with anyone else other than God?

Humans were created in the image of God. When we get to heaven, would it be wrong to want to fellowship with others who were created in the image of God and now reflect the glory of God? Would a relationship with someone other than God in heaven detract from a relationship with God?

One verse of Scripture that is often used to prove that in heaven we will only want God is Psalm 73:25. In that verse, Asaph said, “Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.” However, upon careful examination of the context, what Asaph is saying is while he is here on earth, he has discovered that only God can get him through life (v. 26-28).

Another text that is often used is Psalm 27:4. This is a Psalm of David desiring that he would be able to be in Jerusalem and living in the Temple and see and worship the majestic and glorious God. This is a request that we believe God will answer during the Millennium (Ezek. 34:23-24; 45:7). But does this mean that David would not want to have a relationship with any other person?

Certainly the greatest relationship we will have in eternity will be our relationship with God and with Jesus Christ. Jesus said concerning Himself, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” There is no greater Person who has ever existed. When the Apostle John signed off the book of Revelation, he said, “Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).

Clearly one of the most glorious moments of our lives will be when we see Jesus Christ. But is this all we will want to see? Would we desire to see anyone else? Would we desire to have a relationship with anyone else? **To this we answer a dogmatic “Yes!”**

One key text that certainly answers this question is Genesis 2:18. At the time God gave this statement, Adam was already in existence and he was working. He had the perfect relationship with God. Yet God said, “it is not good for the man to be alone.” Apparently, even in the perfect relationship with God, God knew man needed someone of his own kind with whom he could have a relationship. God, Himself, is the One who created this. Clearly it is not wrong to have a relationship with someone other than God even when things are perfect.

When Jesus, Himself, taught on the subject of eternity He specifically answered this question. In Matthew 8:11, Jesus spoke of an event that will take place in which many will come from the east and the west to sit down and fellowship with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In Luke 13:28-29, he includes seeing “all the prophets.”

Obviously it is not wrong to fellowship with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets.

One of the most comforting passages in the New Testament is **I Thessalonians 4:17**. Paul specifically says that we are to be comforted knowing that we will meet and fellowship with our loved ones again.

In the glimpse we get of Lazarus in eternity, it is obvious that he is being comforted in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:25). What that means is he is experiencing some wonderful things and having some wonderful fellowship.

We know from Revelation 6:9-11 that there will be a gathering of martyrs in heaven during the Tribulation. They will collectively cry out to the Lord and collectively wait for the completion of the Tribulation. During this waiting period, they will obviously be visiting with each other.

Our conclusion is that heaven will open the door for many wonderful relationships with others in the family of God.

Frankly, eternity opens up the possibility of developing friendships and relationships with an endless, vast array of people in the family of God. We could perhaps form friendships with those in the Bible who were involved in things we studied. We could form friendships with the great theologians and students of all ages. Think of talking with Christians who lived in the first century and just listening to them describe what things were really like. Think of your own interests and visiting with others who have that interest.

For example, if you like airplanes think about visiting with Wilbur and Orville Wright, who did come from a Christian home. Think about talking with them and learning from them the actual process that ultimately gives God glory.

The sky is the limit on relationships. Randy Alcorn said it well: "We won't begin to run out of things to think about or talk about. That reservoir won't run dry. It will be replenished daily, forever expanding" (*Heaven*, p. 360).

QUESTION #41 – Will heaven be less joyful if our loved ones are in hell?

It would appear from various passages of Scripture that forever and ever there is a visual reminder in eternity that there are those burning in hell. The visual reminder is smoke.

- 1) Isaiah 34:10
- 2) Revelation 14:11
- 3) Revelation 19:3

Now a question arises that is this. How is it possible to be happy in heaven when we see smoke that testifies there are those burning in hell and some of those people were our own family members and friends?