

## Open: What relationship will we have with those in heaven?

During this open session, we discussed one aspect of heavenly events that will take place between believer. In particular, the relationship between an earthly husband and wife when they meet together again in heaven.

1. What happens to marriage in heaven?

Matthew 22:30

Luke 20:34-36

When people are in heaven, there is no marriage relationship, nor is there any death, but we are all servants of God just as the angels are servants of God.

2. What does our relationship with other believers look like?

Galatians 3:26-29

In heaven there is only one religion, Christ worship. There is no distinction between people nor are there any people groups. We are all one people, the people of Christ. There is no hierarchical division but we are all at the same level, except for Christ who is the rightful king. There is no real concept of gender differentiation. In the heavenly kingdom we are essentially all equal as servants of Christ.

3. What is the purpose of marriage on earth?

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-19

Ephesians 5:31-33

Individually and collectively we have been created in the image and likeness of God. God created us to function like He would function and to participate with Him in the creative process through the propagation of humanity. Of special note, since man was created in the image and likeness of God and Eve was also created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26-27), it is interesting to note that when man was alone, God noted that it was not good so He created Eve, the helpmate. The woman was created to be the complement of man and not to be exactly like Him. In the creation of the woman, God was illustrating the fact that the Godhead is in fact a personal and intimate relationship. Biblical marriage consists of three people, not two. The biblical marriage consists of one man, one woman, and God for all eternity.

4. What does it mean to be like Jesus?

John 17:11

Romans 8:29-30

1 John 3:1-3

Philippians 2:6-8

To be like Jesus means that we are to be united with Him in mind and in purpose. The fullness of this oneness will not be completed during our lifetime but in the transformation that takes place when we depart from our life here and begin our life in Christ's kingdom. During our lifetime, we are slowly being molded and remade to be in the image of Christ. This molding will be completed when we enter the eternal kingdom. It is interesting to note that originally man was created to be in the image and likeness of God, the most highly exalted being, but since man fell, the only hope was

for God to humble himself greatly and come in the likeness of sinful man. Thus we have the transition complete in Christ. We were to be like God, but failed. God humbled Himself greatly to become like the lowest of the created beings in order that we may again be like Him but through faith.