

Heaven – Pt. 6
Relationships
1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 17

I. Intro

- A. Tonight – what will relationships be like in heaven; will relationships we have here on earth carry over; what about marriage
- B. **READ 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 17**
- C. **SHOW VIDEO**

II. Reunion Day

- A. Our loved ones who were believers in Christ and who have died **ARE NOT LOST**; I know where my family who were believers are; I'm afraid that I also know where my family who were not believers are
- B. I believe we will know each other and our family members in heaven
- C. **ASK**: Will our relationships on earth be the same in heaven? Will our children be our children, our spouses be our spouses, our parents be our parents?
- D. **ASK**: How does being reunited with our loved ones in heaven affect our grief over their passing away here on earth?
- E. Alcorn story on girl named Emily with terminal illness; **ASK**: How can we encourage others who are dealing with terminal illness?

III. Marriage in Heaven

- A. **Matthew 22:30 (NIV)**
³⁰ At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.
- B. **Question**: What does Jesus mean by *at the resurrection*? Transition from death to life; **ASK**: When does this *resurrection* actually occur for the believer?
- C. When we're reunited with loved ones in heaven, we will know each other I believe, which means we will know our spouses; **Question**: Will they be "our spouses" in heaven? No – our most intimate relationship in heaven will be with Christ
- D. **Turn to Revelation 19:6-8 (NIV)**
⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For **the wedding of the Lamb has come**, and **his bride** has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

- E. **ASK: Who is the “bride” of the Lamb, of Christ? The saints – we are; the only marriage in heaven**

IV. **Ethnicity in Heaven**

A. **Revelation 7:9-10 (NIV)**

⁹ After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

B. **nation – national, cultural identity**

C. **tribe – clan, family lineage**

D. **people and language – race and ethnic background**

E. **ASK: Who is it in passage that John sees gather around the throne of God?**

F. **Nothing more ridiculous than those people who think that only their same kind of people will be in heaven, or who have some impression that the only people they'll have interaction with in heaven is people of their same kind – clearly not biblical**

G. **ASK: What do you think this means as far as worship that takes place in heaven?**

H. **ASK: So in what ways should this affect how we live our lives on earth? In what ways should this affect our thoughts on worship here on earth?**