

# Marriage After The Resurrection

Will Christians marry one another after Jesus returns and takes us to Heaven? The generally accepted answer to this question is no, they won't. Marriage is "till death do us part". Once people are raised from the dead they won't be able to get married anymore. Marriage is for this life only; it won't exist in the endless ages of eternity. But is that what the Bible teaches? I think there are quite a few reasons to believe that the answer is no, it's not that simple.

First, it's true that death ends the marriage relationship. The Bible is clear about that:

**1 Corinthians 7:39:** "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

The wife is bound to her husband as long as he's alive. Once her husband dies she isn't married to him anymore. At that point she's free to marry someone else. If she married someone else while her husband was still alive she would be in trouble, but once her husband dies it's no longer an issue. The fact that she was previously married doesn't matter. She's free to marry again if she chooses.

But what about the resurrected dead – can they marry? Is it possible to get married after the Lord Jesus Christ returns for us, or is marriage no longer allowed at that point?

At first glance the answer seems pretty straightforward:

**Matthew 22:30:** "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

This statement is repeated in Mark 12 and Luke 20. The general consensus is that this verse teaches there's no marriage after the resurrection – but I don't think this passage is saying what people think it is.

First, let's look at the context of this passage. At this point in Christ's ministry the religious leaders of His day hated Him and wanted Him dead. One of their ploys to get rid of Jesus was to trap Him with questions that were impossible to answer. They were hoping that no matter what Jesus said they could seize on His words and use them to put Him to death.

This question from the Sadducees about marriage was one of those traps. The reason they asked Jesus this question was to make Him look like a fool for teaching the resurrection of the dead:

**Matthew 22:23-24:** “The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. . .”

This wasn't a case when the disciples came to Jesus with a genuine question in order to gain insight and understanding. No, the Sadducees were trying to publicly humiliate Jesus over His belief in the resurrection. They weren't being sincere; they were mocking the Lord.

The reason this matters is because *Jesus didn't give clear, direct answers to questions that were just traps*. For example, earlier in this same chapter someone asked Jesus about paying taxes. Look at how Jesus replied:

**Matthew 22:17-21:** “Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye

hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus with an impossible question. If Jesus said "Yes, the tribute is lawful" He would have been endorsing Roman rule and its accompanying paganism. If Jesus had said "No, the tribute is not lawful", then the Pharisees could have had the Romans arrest Him for treason. The Pharisees were hoping that no matter what Jesus said they could use His answer to get Him killed.

But to their tremendous surprise, Jesus responded in a way that gave them nothing to use against Him. Since His response was untouchable they were forced to do nothing and walk away. At the same time, though, He *didn't really answer the question*. What things belonged to Caesar? How much tribute was lawful and how much was not? Were the Romans doing what was right or had they gone too far? Jesus didn't say. For all intents and purposes He left their question *unanswered*. Since they weren't looking for a real answer Jesus didn't give them one.

The Sadducees were doing the same thing. They came up with a ridiculous scenario where a single woman married 7 different men and didn't have children with any of them (which meant none of them had a strong claim to her). They then demanded to know which man would be her husband in the resurrection, since she was a wife to all of them. Once again, they didn't really care about the answer. They just wanted to mock Jesus for His belief in the resurrection.

The answer to this question should have been obvious. As we've already seen, *death ends the marriage relationship!* Once either of the parties in the marriage dies, that marriage is over. Therefore the woman wouldn't be the wife of any of them! The

Sadducees were trying to claim that marriage somehow lasted beyond death even though the Bible was quite clear it doesn't.

Since the Sadducees were being stupid, Jesus rebuked them for their stupidity:

**Matthew 22:29-30:** “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

The Scriptures had already answered their question. If the Sadducees had studied the Scriptures and believed them they wouldn't have made such a terrible error. The woman was obviously not going to be the wife of any of them.

Verse 30 is where the trouble starts. Jesus seems to be saying that once people are raised from the dead they can no longer get married, but there's a problem. Just as Jesus didn't really answer the question about taxes, He doesn't really answer the question about marriage after the resurrection either. Yes, Jesus said that in the resurrection people won't marry or be given in marriage. But *which resurrection is Jesus talking about?*

You see, the Bible speaks of *three* different resurrections. The first occurs at the rapture, when Jesus returns to this world at the sound of the last trumpet. At that point the dead church saints are raised back to life and the living ones are translated:

**I Corinthians 15:51-53:** “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Do you see the word “mystery” in this passage? Whenever that word is used in the Bible it has a very specific meaning: it indicates whatever doctrine is being discussed is entirely new. It's a secret that's never been revealed before. When Paul told the Corinthians about the rapture he was teaching them *an entirely new doctrine*. The Old Testament didn't teach the rapture, and it was also unknown during the ministry of Christ.

That means when the Sadducees asked about marriage after the resurrection they weren't talking about the rapture of the church, because they didn't know anything about it and Christ didn't reveal it to them. Therefore the rapture is *not* the resurrection Jesus mentioned in verse 30.

The second resurrection that we can find in the Bible occurs long after the rapture. It takes place at the beginning of the millennium. That's when the tribulation martyrs will be raised from the dead:

**Revelation 20:4-6:** “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

In this resurrection the tribulation martyrs are raised back

to life. None of the wicked are raised from the dead – and the wicked aren't resurrected at the rapture either. The resurrection of the wicked doesn't occur until after the thousand years of the millennium are over.

In the final resurrection, all those who died during the millennium (along with all of the wicked who died throughout the ages) are raised from the dead so that they can stand before God and judged. This occurs on what the Bible calls the last day:

**Revelation 20:11-13:** “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

This final resurrection is the *only* one in which the wicked are raised from the dead. The reason this is important is because only *one* of these three resurrections was taught in the Old Testament, and it happens to be this last one. It's mentioned in the book of Daniel:

**Daniel 12:2:** “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

This verse describes a resurrection that includes both the righteous and the wicked. There's only one time that occurs, and

it's the final resurrection that happens before Judgment Day. I want to emphasize that *this is the only resurrection the people of Christ's day knew about*. We can see this from what Martha told Jesus concerning the resurrection of Lazarus:

**John 11:23-24:** “Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Was Martha looking for the rapture? Nope. Instead she was looking for the resurrection that occurs “at the last day” – in other words, before the great judgment at the end of the world. She wasn't aware of anything else. (When Mary told this to Jesus He replied that *He* was the resurrection and the life, and those who believed on Him would never die. But He said nothing about the rapture or the millennial resurrection. Those teachings were kept a secret until after His ascension.)

The Sadducees asked Jesus about the only resurrection they knew about, which was the *last* one – the one that took place on Judgment Day. That means Jesus' answer applies *to that resurrection*. I think it's an error to take something Jesus said about the third resurrection and apply it to the other two. Each of these three resurrections happen at different times and involve different groups of people. They are *not* the same and they shouldn't be treated as if they're interchangeable.

As a Christian are you going to be raised from the dead after the millennium is over? Absolutely not! If you die before the Lord returns then you'll be resurrected at the rapture. This means the answer Jesus gave the Sadducees *doesn't apply to you* – and that's the *only* passage in the Bible which says that marriage is off-limits in the afterlife. Let me repeat that: the only passage in the Bible that says “No, there's no marriage after the resurrection” is talking about a resurrection *that you won't be a part of*. If you die (and you may not, for the Lord's return may be at hand), you'll be raised back to life more than a *thousand years* before that

resurrection!

But there's more to consider. Did you know the people the Sadducees were talking about in their question were *other Sadducees*? Take a look:

**Matthew 22:25:** “Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:”

These weren't random people off the street! They were with the Sadducees. That means the people involved in this question weren't Christians! They were lost people who rejected the Messiah, didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead, and were in rebellion against God. *Of course* there was going to be no marriage after the resurrection for them! When those people were raised from the dead God was going to condemn them for their sins and cast into the Lake of Fire. The fate of these unbelievers was eternal damnation, which is completely different from what the righteous will experience. Don't confuse their fate with yours! Of course they're not going to marry or be given in marriage. Why would there be marriage in a place of everlasting fiery torment?

This question is recorded three times in the Bible (in Matthew, Mark, and Luke). In each instance the question is slightly different and the answer is slightly different. It's possible Jesus was asked this question more than once because He did minister for three years. The book of Luke makes it clear that Christ's answer was addressing life in the new world that God will create after Judgment Day:

**Luke 20:34-35:** “And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to **obtain that world**, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor



are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”

On Judgment Day the Lord will destroy this universe, judge the wicked once and for all, and then create a New Heaven and Earth. In that New Earth there will be no more death – and it seems there will be no more marriage either. But that still doesn't quite answer our question. Will the resurrected church marry one another after the rapture, on *this* Earth, during the millennium? Knowing that there will be no marriage *after* the millennium doesn't answer that question.

We know that *some* people will be getting married and having children in the millennium. Those who are alive on Earth during the tribulation period and who survive it will enter the millennium as mortals, and they will get married and have children. All throughout the millennium millions of non-immortal, non-resurrected people will get married. This means the resurrected saints of God will be living in a world where marriage exists. Will we also get to participate in marriage? Will marriage be reserved only for those who survived the tribulation as mortals, or will *all* of those alive at that time (including the resurrected ones) be allowed to participate in it?

That's the question, and Christ's conversation with the Sadducees doesn't address it. However, Jesus did touch on the subject at another time. What He said was very interesting:

**Matthew 19:28-29:** “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands,

for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

In this passage Jesus *is* talking about the millennium. Peter wanted to know what Jesus would give His disciples as their reward for following Him. Jesus told him that during the millennium they would sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus then added that those who sacrificed other things for Him, *including wives and children*, would receive “an hundredfold”. The Lord would richly repay them for the things they had lost for His sake.

Does this mean Jesus is going to give each of them 100 wives? That does seem unlikely. But is it too much to think that those who gave up a house for Christ might receive one in the millennium? After all, we're going to be living on Earth for a thousand years! We'll need a place to live. If serving Christ cost someone their home is it a stretch to think that perhaps Jesus will give them a place to live so they won't be homeless? Likewise, is it hard to believe that He might give land to those who lost their land for His sake? Those who live in this world during the millennium are going to have houses and land, so it would make sense.

There's even a Biblical precedent for it. When God restored Job after his period of testing He gave Job exactly the same sort of things that he had lost. Job's wealth was taken, so God gave him more wealth. Job's children were also killed, so God gave him more children.

Is it impossible to believe that in a world where marriage still exists and people are still having children, those who lost their wife for the cause of Christ might receive a wife during the thousand years they'll spend in this world? Since *Jesus Himself is the one who mentioned this possibility*, is that really far-fetched?

The millennium will be filled with millions of tribulation survivors who will get married and having children. Is it possible that the resurrected saints will be getting married and having children as well? After all, *there are no verses that say we won't*.

Let's take a look at Isaiah 65. In that chapter the Bible gives us a glimpse of what life will be like during the millennium:

**Isaiah 65:21-23:** “And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”

In the millennium people will build houses and live in them. They will plant vineyards and enjoy their fruit. They will even *have offspring*. If that passage isn't clear enough about the presence of children in the millennium, how about this one:

**Isaiah 11:6-8:** “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.”

There will clearly be children born during the millennium! Who will be having these children? According to Isaiah 65 it will be God's people *and God's elect*. Are *we* not God's elect? Of course we are:

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-4:** “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our

prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God."

Isaiah 65 clearly addresses *God's elect*. Notice that the chapter does *not* say "Everyone will be doing this except for the resurrected church" – but that's how the passage is generally interpreted. Many people think that those who survive the tribulation will get to experience the full joys of living in the millennium, but the church will be excluded from some of them. The tribulation survivors will marry and have offspring but the resurrected church won't. But doesn't the chapter say that *God's elect* will be doing these things? It's certainly possible the church will be excluded, but the passage doesn't actually say that.

Some people might say the reason things will be different for the church is because we're the bride of Christ. But did you know that in the Old Testament the nation of Israel was the wife of Jehovah? It's true:

**Isaiah 54:5:** "For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."

**Jeremiah 3:20:** "Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord."

In the Old Testament we're told that Israel was God's *wife* – and yet that didn't stop the Jews from marrying one another and having children! The relationship that the church will one day have with Christ is something *Israel already had in the Old Testament*. Yet that didn't prevent them from marrying one

another.

I believe there's a possibility that the resurrected saints of God *will* marry and have children during the millennium, just like everyone else who will be alive at that time. After all, marriage isn't bad or sinful. God Himself created it back in Genesis when He formed Eve and gave her to Adam. When God gave Adam his bride both Adam and Eve were *sinless immortals*. God obviously thought there was nothing wrong with two sinless immortals having children! If God considered marriage to be “very good” in a world that contained no sin then why would it be bad in the millennium – especially when millions of other people will be getting married during that period?

Perhaps the resurrected saints won't be getting married in the millennium. However, if there are good theological reasons why that's not going to happen, *the Bible never tells us about them*. Maybe we're seeing problems where none exist.

In fact, the absence of marriage actually *creates* problems. Do you know how important relationships are to God? In Luke 16 Jesus taught one of His most unusual parables: the parable of the unrighteous steward. At the end of that parable He made the point that the wicked were more clever than the saints because they used their wealth to make friends. Jesus said the saints ought to do the same thing because the relationships they forged in this life would still be there in the life to come:

**Luke 16:8-9:** “And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”

Why does God want us to establish relationships in this life? It's because relationships are eternal.

If marriage isn't eternal then that creates an interesting

problem. Marriage is the closest relationship you can have with another person. That's the only time when God takes two people and turns them into one person:

**Matthew 19:4-6:** “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

God is the one who made them male and female, and He's the one who takes them and makes them one flesh. This “one flesh” is very important to God. The only time it ever happens is within marriage! God hates divorce because it separates what He has joined together:

**Malachi 2:16:** “For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.”

In case it isn't clear from this verse, Malachi 2 is talking about divorce. God said that He *hates* it. In Matthew 19:6 Jesus said that what God has joined together let not man put asunder. When God takes two people and joins them into one person He wants them to *remain* joined together.

It's true that death ends the marriage relationship. There's no question about that. But does it seem likely to you that the only time people will *ever* be allowed to experience the closest relationship possible is in *this* age? Is it likely that once we're resurrected immortals, perfect and incorruptible and *finally* able

to be the husbands and wives we should have been all along, that marriage will be off the table *forever*? That during all the endless ages of eternity we'll never have that sort of relationship with anyone ever again?

There are other problems as well. What about all those who *do* get married during the millennium? There will be lots of non-resurrected people who live through the millennium and survive all the way to Judgment Day. Death may end marriage, but *they won't die*. Will God just say "Enough!" and wipe out all marriages that exist at that time? Will the God who hates divorce one day divorce billions of people? Is God going to break up their families and force everyone to leave, or is it possible that just as God replaced the Mosaic Covenant with the Covenant of Grace, He will one day replace the marriage covenant with something better?

Stop and think for a moment. God created *two* genders, not one, and in the Bible He made it clear that He didn't want them to be confused with one another. This was so important to God that the Mosaic Law even forbade people from wearing clothing that pertained to the other gender! God didn't create a sexless society. Each gender was given its own unique roles and abilities (for example, only women could have children). Does it seem likely that the only time *in all of eternity* people will be able to marry and have children will be on this sin-cursed planet that's filled with pain and death? Remember, *none* of those things were created after the Fall; they all existed before then. It seems unlikely that God would care so much about gender distinctions in this life if they're going to be meaningless for the rest of time.

Didn't God say that His kingdom would continue to grow forever?

**Isaiah 9:6-7:** "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the

increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

So tell me: *how is God's kingdom going to grow throughout all of eternity if there are never any new people?* Doesn't the word “growth” imply that you're continually *adding something new*? It's possible God could enlarge His kingdom by creating new alien races, but isn't it also possible that *we* will be doing the reproducing?

The Bible tells us that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). When Jesus taught parables about people who were given talents to use for His kingdom, the people who used them wisely were given *more than they had before*. Jesus didn't take away what they had previously! Instead He *added to to what they already had* and gave them greater responsibilities (Matthew 25:20-29).

Even though it seems likely that God will put an end to marriage after Judgment Day, He may be doing that so He can replace the marriage covenant with something better. When Jesus fulfilled the Mosaic Law and put an end to it He replaced it with the Covenant of Grace, which was superior to the previous covenant in every possible way. Perhaps one day marriage will indeed end, but I'll be surprised if it isn't replaced with something vastly better in the New Heaven and Earth. After all, *God* is the one who said that it's not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18), and He said that *before* the Fall, not after it!

There's one final point I'd like to make. The apostle Paul once told the Corinthian church that it's better to be single than married. Not only does marriage make life harder by adding problems and trials that you otherwise wouldn't have, but it also makes it more difficult to serve the Lord in this world:



**1 Corinthians 7:** “28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you. . .

32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.”

In this sin-filled world it's better to remain single. However, not everyone is able to remain single without struggling with lust and other temptations. For some people it's better to marry even though it adds challenges and distractions to our life.

Some might say that for this reason alone it doesn't make sense for resurrected people to get married. After all, at that point we'll be incorruptible so temptations will forever be a thing of the past. So why marry at all? Why not just remain single and serve the Lord in that capacity?

That makes sense, except for one thing: the next life isn't going to be like this one. The problems that cause us so much grief in this life won't be present in the New Heaven and Earth:

**Revelation 21:1-5:** “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be

no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

In this life we struggle and work, but in the next life we will rest. Take a look:

**Hebrews 4:9-11:** “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

We definitely aren't at rest now. If we were then the text wouldn't command us to work so we might enter into God's rest! In this life we struggle, but in the next life we'll cease from our works and will rest.

Does that mean we're going to spend all of eternity doing nothing? Nope. Revelation 22:3 says that we'll continue to serve God through all the endless ages to come, and Revelation 22:5 says we'll reign with Him forever. Toiling with the sweat of our brow was part of the curse that God placed upon the world when Adam sinned – and God is going to put an end to that curse.

In conclusion, the Bible gives us glimpses of what God has planned for us in the future. I think those glimpses are worth pondering because God wants our heart to be on Heaven and not on Earth (Matthew 6:20-21). If it's true that marriage will exist in some form in the millennium and perhaps even beyond then that puts our struggles into perspective. If God is going to give us much better things in the future then it's not so hard to give up the things of this world. Losing earthly things isn't as tragic if we

know that one day we'll receive eternal things in exchange.

I don't believe God is going to take away the closest relationship we can experience (the only one where two people become one) and replace it with nothing. That's not something God does! The Lord once created billions of galaxies to give light to the Earth at night, which is an astonishing thing to do. The relationships we'll have in eternity won't be more distant than the ones we have today.

Perhaps I'm wrong and there won't be anything like marriage in the millennium or the New Heaven and Earth. Even if that's true, I firmly believe it's only because God is going to create something much better to take its place. God isn't going to take our cup away so that He can break it into pieces and then set the pieces on fire. We will have *more* in eternity, not less! Even the best moments of this life can't begin to compare with what's coming.