

Family Relationships in the New Heaven and New Earth

Zechariah 8:1-6; Psalm 16:11

Being with Christ will be the greatest joy of Heaven. The next greatest joy will be reuniting with our loved ones who have died. Scripture nowhere suggests a “memory wipe” of our earthly relationships, we can expect that our loved ones are aware of us now and are anticipating the reunion as much as we are. We are accustomed to talk about the differences there will be when we make our transition from earth to heaven, but there are some similarities too. Given the fact that our personalities continue, we can expect continuity. Heaven is the earthly life of the believer glorified and perfected.

Knowledge, love, feelings, a desire for justice—all of these are the present experience of those who have gone on ahead of us to heaven. Think of your purest joy on earth; then multiply that many times and you might catch a glimpse of heaven’s euphoria.

► What will **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS** be like in Heaven?

Receiving a glorified body and relocating to the New Earth doesn’t erase history; it culminates history. Nothing will negate or minimize the fact that we were members of families on the old Earth. Luke 8:19-21; Mark 10:29-30

“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you. There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or a father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

Knowledge, love, feelings, and a desire for justice are all being experienced now. Our entire personalities will carry over into the life beyond. Heaven has its differences, but it will be populated with our friends and family.

► If we are born into sin, do **CHILDREN** go to Heaven before they can accept Jesus?

Scripture opens the door to this question through its teaching that God has a special love for children. Luke 18:16; Matt. 18:2-4; Matt. 21:16; Luke 1:15; 2 Samuel 12:23; I Cor. 7:14.

We're conceived and born in sin (not to mean that the marriage act is sinful; it was a gift of God).

Psalm 51:5—*"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."*

There is no "of course" children go to Heaven in the Bible. However, we can draw conclusions: The Bible doesn't teach the moral innocence of children (Rom. 5:12—In Adam, all have sinned). Scripture opens the door to this question through its teaching that God has a special love for children:

Luke 18:16—*"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."*

Matthew 18:2-4—*"Except ye be converted and become as little children"*

Matthew 21:16—*"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise"*

Luke 1:15—*John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit in His mother's womb.*

2 Samuel 12:23—*King David said his son that died could not return, but he would go to him.*

Different situations: children of saved and lost parents. (Noah and the flood; Lot and his family; the death angel during the plagues). Ill.: Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? Gen. 18:24, 25; See Isaiah 7:15-16.

► What will happen with **HUSBANDS AND WIVES** in Heaven?

We will maintain genders in our resurrected bodies. We will be male and female. Many people wonder if that is so, why would we not function as marriage partners. Keep in mind that Adam and Eve had a physical relationship before the curse—It was not only a privilege of their union but a command.

When God created woman to satisfy a man's need, He said it was "very good."
If there is no frustration of desire in Heaven, then it appears it will not be something we desire. We will desire food and water—and those things will be satisfied.

In the most satisfying marriages, there is more involved than the act itself.

Marriage was ALWAYS intended to be a picture of Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-33. Since sex was designed by God, we can assume that He is going to replace it with something better.

Best friends in marriage on Earth still get to be best friends in heaven. There is no marrying and giving in marriage; but the Bible never said that deep relationships would end. As a matter of fact, holy kisses are biblical.

Remember that Jesus in His resurrected body ate and fellowshiped with, and spent the most time those forty days with the people He had been closest to before.