

Series on death and the afterlife – sermon 5 - 28/11/10 (am)

Meeting Again in Heaven

John 14:1-6

Theme: Christians will retain their identity in Heaven and will, therefore, recognise each other.

Christians will retain their identity in Heaven

The Bible teaches clearly that Christians will not lose their identity in Heaven.

In retaining their identity they will recognise each other (14:2-3).

Other proofs:

- The Old Testament phrase *he was gathered to his people* (Gen. 25:8-9; 35:29; 49:33; Deut. 32:50).
- David hoped for reunion with his departed child (2 Sam. 12:23).
- Recognition of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 8:11).

(continued)

- The disciples recognised Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:3).
- A Christian being welcomed into glory by Christians he helped in this life (Lk. 16:9 (ESV or NLT)).
- The Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk.16:23).
Recognition in the afterlife.
- Missionaries recognising the fruit of their labour in glory (1 Thess. 2:19-20).

Christians will

- be reunited with believing loved ones in Heaven.
- see the heroes of faith of Hebrews 11 in Heaven.
- see great men and women of Church history in Heaven.
- see the fruit of their labours in Heaven.

Anticipation of Heaven should always be shaped primarily around being with the Lord but the thought of being reunited with loved ones and others adds to the attractiveness of Heaven.

What will relationships be like in Heaven?

Will I be married to the same person in Heaven?

I can't imagine being in Heaven with my spouse and not having same relationship we had on earth.

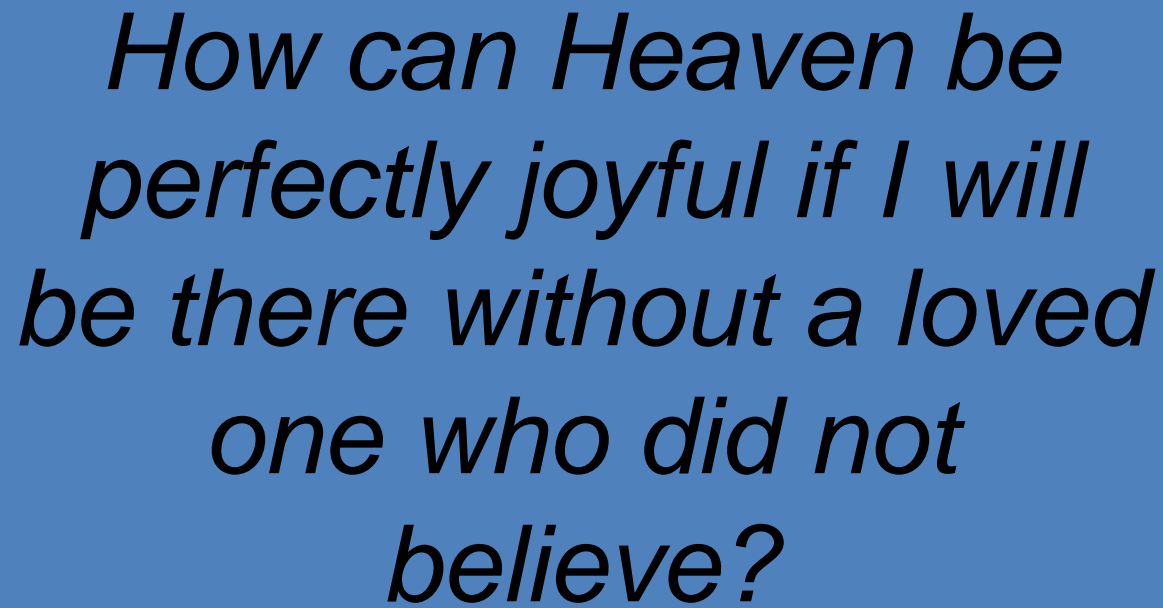
The manner of life on earth is passing
away

(1 Cor. 7:29-31 (NLT)).

Relationships in Heaven will not be the
same as relationships on earth (Rev.
21:27).

Christians in Heaven will not marry (Matt. 22:29-30). The only marriage will be the perfect marriage of Christ and His Bride, the Church (Eph. 5:25-27, 32; Rev. 19:7).

In Heaven we will be part of a perfect family. The family ties we had on earth will not exist, but all will relate perfectly to each other (Matt. 12:46-50).



How can Heaven be perfectly joyful if I will be there without a loved one who did not believe?

Believers will meet people in Heaven
that they did not expect to meet
there...

...and they will not see people that
they expected to see (Matt. 7:21).

The important thing is to leave the
issue with God and not let it distract
you from serving Him now.

Family ties we had on earth will not exist
In Heaven (1 Cor. 13:12) but we can be sure
that we will be perfectly happy in
Heaven.

*All our earthly attachments will be overwhelmed
by more satisfying relationships and more perfect
affections. [John MacArthur]*

A void left by any broken earthly
relationship will be perfectly filled by the
Lord.

Conclusion – Worshipping Him Together

For Christians, death will only separate
for a while.

In Heaven there will be a wonderful
reunion.

This should not and will not be the
focus of Heaven.

The Lord will be the focus of Heaven
and worship of Him will be the primary
activity...

...but we will do it together,
recognising each other and relating
perfectly to each other.