



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

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## Is Marriage Permanent?

Is marriage permanent? My answer is “No.”

You may disagree and you're always welcome to disagree. But please don't be rude and say nasty things about me because I think differently than you do. And if you read what I write then by now you should know that I won't make a claim like this without offering some sort of document to back it up. And If I can't provide documentation then I'll tell you it's only speculation.

So, is marriage permanent? There is a source that says it isn't and I will quote that source:

### **Marriage at the Resurrection**

That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. “Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. Finally, the woman died. Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?”

Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in

heaven. But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching. –  
Matthew 22:23-33 NIV

And there you go. My source is none other than Jesus Himself.

Yesterday afternoon my dad called and we had a nice, long chat. The topic of marriage in heaven came up and he shared his thoughts on the subject. Now I wish to share with you what I said to him. Please bear with me because I don't have documentation to back this up. Earlier I did hear a class taught by Dr. Jean Sheldon in which she made a statement about heaven being a place where we would experience total love. Her comment gave me food for thought.

I'm going to give you an assignment. It will be short and you can do it while you are reading this. This will require the use of your imagination. I know that there are some of you who will be hesitant to do that, but bear with me on this and recognize that you use your imagination all day long. This little exercise won't do anything to harm your brain.

Think of the person who means the most to you. This should be the person you love the most. It may be your spouse. It may be a parent. It may be your best friend. It may be your significant other. Maybe it's your child.

When you think of this person I want you to envision the love you feel for this special person. Try to put all other thoughts out of your mind and lavish yourself in the love you have for and hopefully share with the other person.

Now I want you to intensify that love by 7 times. How are you feeling about your love for this special person now? Is your love at this level sufficient or do you want to love this person even more?

Let's go for more. Imagine that heightened love and intensify it again another 7 times. Take a moment to bask in that love then intensify it again, and again, and again.... Are you getting the idea?

In heaven we will be living in an atmosphere where we will experience the total fulfillment of love. This love is of a depth that we are unable to fathom. Why? Because the love that we are able to experience now is imperfect. It's

incomplete. We're too wrapped up in ourselves to be able to perfectly love another.

But let's not stop with this level of love that we're feeling for our special person. Take that intensified love and now imagine yourself experiencing love of that level for every living soul. And it gets even better. Not only do you love everyone with a perfected love but you are also loved by everyone there and that love they have for you is a perfect love. Everyone there is more interested in others than of themselves.

We are so damaged by sin, by self-ishness that we cannot fully appreciate this depth of love because we cannot understand it. What ecstasy is there waiting for us and within our grasps? I can't wait to find out.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. – 1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV

And now I must apologize because I've asked you to focus upon self. As fascinating as it is to dwell upon what is waiting for us, to do so is to focus upon self. We need to reach the point that it doesn't matter what's in store for us. As long as we can be with our Creator and those we love that's all that really matters. To pull that one off we must keep our eyes upon Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to work within us to make the changes needed to be able to perfect us. By perfecting us then we will be able to love others selflessly and not worry about what's in it for us.

And that's all I have for tonight. Before I end this I'll share something that I came across recently. I wish I could tell you where I heard it but Hannah needs to catch on that she has become quite proficient at forgetting and needs to stop forgetting that she is forgetful. In other words, I heard something fascinating and didn't write it down because it was something I would remember. Of course I forgot.

I forgot where I heard it so unless I can backtrack and re-find it I won't be able to share the reference. I'll share a bit of what I heard and that is the concept of hell being a place in the middle of the earth where the wicked go to burn forever is an ancient Greek teaching as well as the teaching that heaven is a place that is located above the earth.

In the past I've seen things in the Bible that have made me wonder what is the truth about heaven. There is evidence in the Bible that suggests the holy city is

not a physical structure with buildings and the kind of things you expect to find in a city. The evidence suggests that the city is in reality God's true people.

This isn't the only thing about the city that has captured my attention. Maybe some day I'll sit down and study it out and perhaps find something there. If I do I'll be sure to share it with you.

And now, I bid you good night and Happy Sabbath.

Lots of love,

Hannah

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