

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“But to those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage.”
(Luke 20: 34)

Marriage is for life on earth. Marriage is not for the kingdom of God in heaven. Thus says Jesus. Why is that? Why would Our Lord say that? First off, because He knows it to be true and because He is the Truth. He conveys that Truth to us. Also, He knows that we do not know about such things as no marriage in the kingdom of heaven because we have never been there and unless it is revealed to us, we can only guess at what marriage would be like, what it would include and not include.

Marriage is a relationship of intimacy, commitment, generativity and love. It is designed for life here on earth and to continue and perpetuate life here on earth. It is designed for the sanctification of spouses and children and for the renewal of the human community on earth and for the triumph in heaven. Of course, we do not think in such lofty terms most of our lives. Life is tough and it takes a lot of concentration, effort, patience, dedication, determination, and prayer to get through any given day. But there is an end game that God had in mind when he bestowed marriage upon the human race.

In heaven we no longer need to propagate the human race. We are already in our final home and all the people are accounted for. There is love there, however. It will not be sexual love as it exists here. It will be the deepest kind of intimate love of which we are capable, but our bodies will be glorified bodies and will transmit and receive that love in a transformed way. What exactly that is we do not yet know. But we trust Our Lord. He is the One who told us about the Father creating a Kingdom for us and wanting each of us and all of us to live there with him. We really should spend some time in our imaginative minds considering what the kingdom of heaven is to be like. And we should begin by thinking about the very best relationship we presently have or have ever had. Start there and then realize that heaven is about the very best relationship we can possibly have—with God. Can you imagine that? The question of the week.