

“What Do We Want?” “Eternal Life!”  
“When Do We Want It?” “Now!”  
[Exodus 3:1-15](#); [Mark 12:18-27](#)

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The Sadducees are trying to get one over on Jesus. They think they can confuse him into making a mistake if they use a patently absurd example. So, they try this ridiculous story of a single bride for seven brothers. Everyone knows they’re making it up, but nevertheless Jesus has to answer.

Answer he does. He tells them they’ve got it wrong. First off, the Sadducees are using an example from the physical world to imagine something beyond the physical world. Jesus tells them you can’t do that. It doesn’t make sense. Using examples from the physical world to describe the spiritual world is like trying to explain colors to someone who’s been blind from birth. Doesn’t work. That’s Jesus’ first response.

Next, Jesus shows them from Scripture that they’re wrong by citing the story of Moses and the burning bush. Jesus uses this text to explain God is God of both the living and the dead because there are no dead. In God, the dead are alive. In God, the people we think are physically dead are actually alive. When we die, God loves us so much God loves us back into living. When we die, God loves us so much God loves us into living again. God loves us into living. It’s after our death we fully realize just how much God loves us.

Jesus is bringing us good news! God promises us life after death. It will be different than this life, but the point is God loves us so much that when we die, God loves us back to life. God loves us back into living. This is good news!

But it also raises a troubling question. Does God love us less, now? Does God love us less in this life but will love us more in the next life? Is God reserving God’s greatest love until after we die?

Good question, and the answer is No! No. No. No.

We know God loves us all equally. In Jesus Christ, God loves us all the same: good/bad, rich/poor, man/woman, gay/straight,

conservative/liberal, Democrat/Republican, red/yellow/black/white. God loves us all equally.

God loves you and me who are alive right now, here on earth, just as much as God loves those who are in heaven. God loves you and me, right now, just as much as God loves Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, right now. God loves you and me just as much, right now, as God loves our dead relatives, children who died much too young, friends we've lost along the way. God loves us, right now, just as much as God loves all of them, right now.

We don't have to die to experience God's love. We can know the love of eternal life in this world, too. We don't have to die to experience eternal life. We can experience eternal life, God's love, heaven, the Kingdom of God, we can know it right now. Right now.

The more we move towards God, the more we live the Godly life, the more we live the way Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer, the more we experience God's love. Yes, we live in a sinful world. We live in a world of sin, disease, sickness, and sadness. But please, don't let that stop you. Move towards God. Experience eternal life now. Even if it's just a taste, just for an instant, we can experience the Kingdom of God now!

No one knows what heaven will be like. Angels, halos, harps of gold, white wings, shiny thrones, streets of pearl. Sorry, but that's just guess work, imagination, figures of speech. Nobody knows and if they did, they wouldn't know how to describe it. Heaven is beyond our earthly ability to explain.

But the good news of God is we don't have to wait. We can taste it right now by living in loving relationship with God and each other.

My friends, we don't have to wait to experience the love of God in the Kingdom of Heaven. We don't have to wait to know the love that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the love that Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; the love that all the saints of the past and all the saints we have known and loved and miss so badly, we don't have to wait to know how much God loves them. We can enjoy it right now because this is how much God loves us. This is how much God loves us. Thanks be to God. Amen.