

It used to bother me what we would do when we got to heaven. What is there going to be for us to do? How about the idea of worshipping God continually, like the 24 elders we read about in Revelation? I used to wonder about that, thinking that it wasn't that great a place if I was compelled to do that all of the time. But I believe that when we see the infinite glory of God, this praise will just flow forth from us.

Perhaps there is more to it, though. God created us for a relationship; he is love and exists to share that love. We will come to realize the magnitude of what this means when we get to heaven.

The more I think of it, the more I think that in heaven, love will be our business, not just a sideline. It will be our full occupation, and end unto itself. What we call love now is just a part-time job; we concentrate on it when we're not working, or eating, or sleeping, etc. There are so many other things that get in the way of full and complete love.

But in heaven that is really all that there will be. Could it be that there, without all of the worries of life, love becomes something with more substance than what we can understand now? Here on earth, physical love between a man and a woman is perhaps as close as we can get to this; in heaven love will be to all and for all. There will be a very powerful force between us, linking us in a relationship that cannot be broken. It will be our consuming passion, to live in love for all time.

I don't know, of course, but we would have to be turned into a different creature for this. And the Bible says that this will happen. For instance, in 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" And in Ephesians 4:24 we read, "and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." This new creature will feed and live on love.

In trying to find a way to portray this idea, I thought of an analogy to swimming. This is something we do on occasion; we may go to the beach to have fun, splash around, swim to the floating dock, do some diving, and so forth. We may even see how far we can swim underwater. But consider a change that comes over us where we actually become a fish. Now we are "one" with the water and must continually force it through their system; we require it for life. This is a radical change in the way we operate, and it may sound like a crazy thought. But who among us thinks that the current power of our love is adequate for heavenly existence?

But some people never learn to swim. I can remember my own difficulties, shivering as I sat by the city pool, waiting to drown. I could not be forced to learn it; when I could take my time I found out how to sidestroke, and the other strokes came easy after that. Swimming is not something that comes very easy to most of us; it is a process that must be learned. Learning to love can be similar. Just as we are afraid to let go of the side of the pool or dock we are afraid to let go with our hearts. We are afraid of the transformation that might occur in us. We are afraid to let go of self and swim out to God. We know that we will be changed dramatically if we absorb the kind of love that God has and is. We don't want to be a fish that depends on being totally immersed in something as a part of its existence. But if you don't learn how to swim you will drown if you get thrown in the water. And the day will come where we all get thrown in.

Love is so fulfilling that we will be able to live on it in heaven.