Will I be reunited with my Husband or Wife in Heaven?

Many of us have suffered one of the greatest losses that one can experience in this world which is the loss of a beloved Spouse. Many times we are consoled by loved ones telling us that we can look forward to being reunited with our departed spouse in Heaven only to later find out that some interpretations of Matthew 22:23-30 indicate that since Christ told the Sadducees in Matthew 22:30 that there will be "no marriage" or "giving in marriage" in the resurrection we have no hope of continuing our loving relationship with our departed spouse in eternity.

Below is an analysis of scripture related to marriage and our relationships in heaven and what scripture indicates our relationship may be in the afterlife.

Biblical verses relating Marriage and Heaven

Are there marriages in heaven? The most obvious answer would seem to be no, based on Jesus' words to the Sadducees as recorded in Luke 20:27-38, Matthew 22:23-32, and Mark 12:18-27. Here's the Luke account:

But certain of the Sadducees, who deny that there is any resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if someone's brother die having a wife, and he die childless, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed to his brother. There were therefore seven brothers, and the first took a wife, and died childless. And the second took the wife, and he died childless. And the third took her, and likewise the seven also, and they left no children, and died. And last of all the woman died also. In the resurrection therefore, whose wife of them is she? For the seven had her to wife." And Jesus answering said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but they who shall be accounted worthy to obtain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage; for they cannot any more die; for they are equal to the angels, and are the sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

It seems fairly straightforward – Jesus clearly said that there was no marriage in the resurrection. At first glance the charge seems justified. But looking closer at Jesus' response, it becomes clear that this isn't quite as cut-and-dried as it first appears. A closer examination of Jesus' response reveals that Jesus refers to the "act of marrying" or "being given in marriage". His comments do not necessarily indicate that the love and the special relationship that we have with our earthly spouse will not continue into eternity.

If anything scripture reveals the special significance God attaches to the union of a husband and wife. First of all, in **Genesis 2:18** God indicates that it is "<u>not</u> good for Man to live alone". Therefore in Genesis **2:21-22** God creates a help mate for Adam in the form of a woman Eve. God continues in **Genesis 2:24** by stating, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh". In **Genesis 1:31** when God created Man and Woman he said it was "**very good**". In **Matthew 19:4-6** God again indicates that when two people enter into marriage for the correct reasons the two become "one flesh". **Mark 10:9** indicates that what God has joined together let no man put asunder. Therefore, if God has created marriage because it is **not good for man to dwell alone**: the two souls are joined into "**one flesh**"; and finally, God says marriage is "**very good**" why would God separate such a union in heaven?

But the most compelling scripture in the Bible which indicates marriage continues on into Heaven is in 1 Peter 3:7! In 1 Peter 3:7 Peter tells us that husbands are to provide companionship to their wives because husbands and wives "together receive the gift of life". Therefore, Peter's commentary supports Genesis 2:24 which indicates the union of a husband and wife is "one flesh" and together they receive the gift of life in heaven.

Finally **Psalm 37:4-5** says that "if you commit your ways to the Lord he will give you all the desires of your heart. Believe it to be so and he shall make it come to pass". All of us that have committed our ways to the Lord and have experienced a wonderful loving relationship with our spouse "will desire" to be with our departed spouse for eternity.

Based upon the scripture listed above our earthly marriages which God has ordained will continue in Heaven and the renewed relationship with our spouse will completely transcend what we experienced here on this earth. What a wonderful God we serve!

AMEN