



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Dwelling in His Presence—P11

“Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name; The upright will dwell in Your presence” (Psalm 140:13).

Your “presence” in your spouse’s life is crucial for your relationship to be anything but a formality. Presence means you make available everything that you are to your spouse—your time, energy, love—your nature—so you will have fellowship, unity, and intimacy.

As Believers, we should desire to be in the presence of God, if we value our relationship with Him. As David declared, *“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever”* (Ps. 16:11). *“You set me in Your presence forever”* (Ps. 41:12b). *“You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man”* (Ps. 31:20a). *“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence”* (Ps. 42:5).

Conversely, those who do not want fellowship with God, avoid and flee from His presence, because they have fellowship, unity, and intimacy with sin and darkness: *“They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden”* (Gen. 3:8). *“For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, Because their speech and their actions are against the Lord, To rebel against His glorious presence”* (Is. 3:8). *“And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb’”* (Rev. 6:16).

It is impossible to dwell in the presence of God and continue, practice, or dwell in sin.

People who love their sin flee from the presence of God, because God’s character and His nature is near to us in His presence and among His qualities of righteousness, justice, and holiness is that He is a revealing Light: *“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed”* (Jn. 3:19-20). *“These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed”* (1 Thes. 9-10a).

The Bride longs to be in the presence of Her Bridegroom. And though Jesus left to make a home for her in the Heavens, He did not abandon her, for *“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”* (1 Cor. 1:9). Indeed, God has sent the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, so that we may have fellowship with the presence of Jesus even though He is absent from us in the body, for we ourselves *“are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him”* (Rom. 8:9). Jesus is always present with us through His Spirit.

So, as the Bride goes about her daily life, waiting for her Husband to return, is she thinking, speaking, and acting “in the presence” of Jesus? Paul stressed that his thoughts, words, and actions were done “in the presence” of Christ: *“But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ”* (2 Cor. 2:10). As Christ’s Bride, may we never avoid His presence or seek to hide our ways from His Spirit in us. Even so, Amen!

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