

# What is God After?

## MUTUAL INDWELLING

1. A Bride for his Son

**Ephesians 5:31-32** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

2. A Body for his Spirit

**Ephesians 1:22-23** *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

3. A Temple for Himself

**Ephesians 2:21-22** *in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

4. God’s Word uses a lot of “mutuality” language

- a. John 17:21 & 26

- b. 1 Cor. 6:17 & 19

## OUR THREE-DIMENSIONAL God

1. The Personal Dimension

**Isaiah 66:1-2** *Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?<sup>2</sup> All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.*

2. The Ecclesial Dimension

**Ephesians 2:21-22** *in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

3. The Eschatological Dimension

**Revelation 21:3** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (See also Is. 11:9 & Hab. 2:14)*

**JESUS: THE ARCHETYPE OF HUMANITY**

1. We are called to be conformed to the image of Christ
  - a. What does God's Word say about Jesus?
    - i. John 3:34
    - ii. John 10:30
    - iii. John 14:9
  - b. What does God's Word say about us?
    - iv. Colossians 2:9-10
    - v. Ephesians 4:13
    - vi. Ephesians 3:19
2. Most of the world sees God as invisible, inaudible, and untouchable. Enter Jesus! Through Jesus God becomes:
  - a. Visible: *"if you've seen me you've seen the Father"*
  - b. Audible: *"The words I speak are not my own, they are the words of the Father."*
  - c. Touchable: *"Thomas, touch my hands, the wound in my side, be not unbelieving, but believe."*
3. Jesus has done what we are called to do from the beginning—bear the image of God in this world. In Christ, we can now fulfill our calling. Christianity is not merely humanity's quest for God; it is supremely God's seeking after people, people who will bear his image and become his dwelling place.
  - a. *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."* The Word coming to us is prophetic. *"Christ in you the hope of glory."* The Word forming in us is incarnational.
  - b. Our union with Christ is not metaphorical; it is metaphysical.
  - c. Christ is the interpretive key of history, he is the Omega point. The Divine and human natures are to be wedded in a loving union. (See Eph. 5:31-32 & 2 Pet. 1:4)
  - d. To follow Christ is to find your destiny as a human being.

**Colossians 3:3-4** *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*