

The *Sine Qua Nons* of Heaven

Those Things *Without Which*
Heaven Would *Not* Be Heaven

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❖ Imagine you could eat as much as you wanted of anything you liked, without ill effects...

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- ❖ Imagine you could eat as much as you wanted of anything you liked, without ill effects...
- ❖ so long as you ate alone.

❖ Imagine playing any sport you wanted, whenever you wanted, and with a champion's skill...

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- ❖ Imagine playing any sport you wanted, whenever you wanted, and with a champion's skill...
- ❖ but always against robots, with no spectators, and no one to talk to afterwards.

❖ Imagine exploring
breathtakingly beautiful
worlds and discovering
amazing creatures...

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- ❖ Imagine exploring breathtakingly beautiful worlds and discovering amazing creatures...
- ❖ but never being able to share your experiences.

Sine Qua Non 1:

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

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Sine Qua Non 1:

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Personal Relationship
requires:

- Continuity of unique
identity (Revelation 2.17)

Sine Qua Non 1:

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Personal Relationship
requires:

- Continuity of unique
identity (Revelation 2.17)
- Recognizability (Luke 16.9)

❖ What if Heaven had every conceivable pleasure except for love?

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- ❖ What if Heaven had every conceivable pleasure except for love?
- ❖ What if someone “loved” you, but had no interest in your thoughts and dreams?

Sine Qua Non 2:

INTIMACY

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Sine Qua Non 2:

INTIMACY

To be completely loved
while fully known.

(cf. 1 Corinthians 13.12b)

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Sine Qua Non 2:

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Wait! We can't even
know ourselves
intimately, apart from
relationship with our
Creator and Redeemer.

Sine Qua Non 2:

No one can really know
themselves if they do not
know their origin,
purpose and destiny.

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Sine Qua Non 2:

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Ultimate intimacy is only possible
through the One Who knows our
heart, gave us our gifts, and
planned our destiny.

(cf. Psalm 36.9)

Sine Qua Non 3:

JESUS

Our infinite, omniscient
Creator, and Redeemer.

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JESUS

➤ Preceded Heaven.

The
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JESUS

- Preceded Heaven.
- Created Heaven and Earth (John 1.3).

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JESUS

The
Sine Qua Nons
Of Heaven



- Preceded Heaven.
- Created Heaven and Earth (John 1.3).
- Tied His eternal destiny to ours (John 1.14).

JESUS

The
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Of Heaven



- Guarantees our eternal joy (Psalm 16.11).
- Endured the cross for the supreme joy of redeeming those He loves (Hebrews 12.2).

JESUS
IS THE ULTIMATE
SINE QUA NON
OF HEAVEN.

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The Theology Of The Bride

The
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The reason for all creation is the overflow of the Father's love for the Son. The *expression* of the Father's love will be multiplied as He builds a suitable Bride for His Son.

The Theology Of The Bride

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As the people of God, we are living out a cosmic courtship; we are preparing for a Jewish-type wedding.

1. The “friend of the Bridegroom,” John the Baptist has already prepared the way and introduced the Bridegroom (John 3.29-30).

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2. By our Christian baptism we have received the traditional prenuptial immersion.

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3. The marriage contract, the “*Ketubah*,” has been presented by the Bridegroom in His “Sermon On The Mount.”

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4. In our taking communion, we enact the betrothal (*eyrusin*) ceremony of sharing a cup of wine, and our betrothal is lived out in our continuing sanctification (*kiddushin*).

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5. In the traditional manner, our Bridegroom has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14.2-3).

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6. Our Bridegroom will return for us, according to the traditional “fetching of the Bride,” a tradition that provides the background for the parable of “The Ten Virgins” (Matthew 25.1-13).

The Theology Of The Bride

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7. At last, the lavish wedding will take place, when God will turn the hill country around Jerusalem into a great plain (Zechariah 14.10), and the fiery cloud of His presence, the *Shekinah*, will serve as the wedding canopy (*chuppah*) over it all (Isaiah 4.5).

So, can we tune our hearts
to Psalm 73.25?

“Whom have I in heaven
but you?
And earth has nothing I
desire besides you.”

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So, can we tune our hearts
to Psalm 73.25?

“Whom have I in heaven
but you?

And earth has nothing I
desire besides you.”

Can we get excited about
our coming wedding?

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Download these materials at: www.tmin.org/tminpages/Heaven.html

Questions? Email Rod: rod@tmin.org