

Do dead people live in our hearts?

Dead people do not live in, and are not present within, our hearts. Even though this is popular folk lore, to believe this is to believe a lie. Why would we want dead people to live in our hearts? Isn't it infinitely better to think that the dead are asleep in Jesus, if indeed they are His? He is infinite and never ending. We are passing away. Memories of the dead, the influence they have had on us, and our love and desire for them, may continue for a lifetime. But to think that the dead supplant God in actively watching over, guiding, speaking to, protecting, or living within us, is untrue and idolatrous. These are positions that God alone must occupy in our hearts. Our true hope and comfort is that we and our loved ones have, in truth, come to know God and that He has come to live in us. It is a measurement of the genuineness of our faith that we guard HIS rightful and true place in our hearts in this way. And it is a deep and trusting act of humility to let go of our dead loved ones and place them fully into the arms and care of Almighty and Loving God.

While we may have a love and desire in our hearts for one another, and in that sense "have someone in our heart," the Scriptures do not teach that we can live or exist within one another. But rather, the Scriptures teach that we live in God, and God lives in us, and HE alone is the eternal bond/connection that we, as His new-born children, have with one another.

John 17.20-26:

20 And I do not pray concerning these only, but also concerning those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that all may be one, as YOU ARE IN ME, Father, and I IN YOU, that they also may be one IN US, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And I have given them the glory which You have given Me, that they may be one, as We are One:

23 I IN THEM, and YOU IN ME, that they may be perfected in one; and that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them, even as You loved Me.

24 ¶ Father, I desire that those whom You have given Me, that where I am, THEY MAY BE WITH ME also, that they may behold My glory which You gave Me, because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 Righteous Father, indeed the world did not know You, but I knew You; and these have known that You sent Me.

26 And I made known to them Your name, and will make it known, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I IN THEM.