

## Life With God

In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.

Now all of us, both Jews and Gentiles, may come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. 19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:12-13, 18-22 NIV

The Bible is all about human life "with God." It is about how God has made this "with-God" life possible and will bring it to pass. In fact, the name **Immanuel**, meaning in Hebrew "God is with us," is the title given to the one and only Redeemer, because it refers to God's everlasting intent for human life – namely, that we should be in every aspect a dwelling place of God. *Indeed, the unity of the Bible is discovered in the development of life "with God" as a reality on earth, centered in the person of Jesus."*

The People of God – this all-inclusive community of loving persons – are seen in the New Testament as "God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (Eph 2:19-22) Even the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity beyond human history is portrayed: "No the dwelling of God is with human beings, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God." (Rev 21:3)

Dallas Willard, *The Renovare*'

How can love and service to God become living sparks that light up our whole lives? By discovering a perspective that unifies both secular and sacred. By understanding that all honest work and creative enterprise can be a valid calling from the Lord. And by realizing there are biblical principles that apply to every field of work. These insights will fill us with new purpose, and we will begin to experience the joy that comes from relating to God in and through every dimension of our lives. It is fundamentally a way to execute God's own purposes in the world ... in our work, we do the work of the God. Sometimes we think serving the Lord means piling religious activities on top of our existing responsibilities ... it can create a tension between our spiritual hunger and the time demands of a purely "secular" job that tear you apart inside. Sometimes when we are seriously committed to our faith we often experience this inner tug of war. Our perspective needs to change by allowing the biblical perspectives to dwell inside of us. We then can experience the freedom to step into the missional life of Jesus.

Nancy Pearcey, *Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*