



# Church of Christ

October 5, 2003

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## Heart to Heart...

People ask, "Why do we exist?" It's a rather simple answer. We exist because the Bible tells us God acted in love and created us for everlasting and loving union with Himself. We can see clearly the love of God through the death of Jesus, but do we realize the love of God for us in His creating us? He created us in His image! He didn't give us animal life, but bestowed upon us a life of dignity and honor. We can see God's kindness and love in all this.

God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden; there was a close, intimate relationship between them. The Creator of our lives, the One to whom is due all honor and glory, extended His fellowship and life with His creation. Man sinned, and sin ruined every thing! Sin always ruins and destroys people's lives. Despite man's wickedness, God wished to dwell with His creation and asked Moses to build Him a tabernacle. He asked Solomon to do the same. God desired a relationship with His creation.

This wasn't enough so God sent His Son into our world to live among us. He extended to us God's love and truth that sin had marred. He became our sin and died in our place. But this wasn't enough. When Jesus ascended back to heaven, He left behind His body, called the Church, God's dwelling among men. In His body, the Church, God placed His Spirit, not to dwell among His people, but in His people (Rom. 8; I Cor. 3:16-17). The Creator and Lord of heaven and earth loves and wants a relationship with His creation. The Church exists, not for its own sake, but for the sake of others. God desires and wants all people to be joined with Him and share in His life. God's dwelling in the form of the Church is the extension of God's love for mankind so others could know of His love for them. God not only loves the Church, His body where He dwells, but He also loves all mankind wanting them to be joined with Him and His love (I Tim. 2:3-4; I John 2:2). We are the extension of Christ's love and God's desire for all.

Why do we exist? We exist to enjoy the kindness of fellowship with our Creator and extend that fellowship to a separated, lost creation. People are walking off into an eternal place of condemnation every moment, without fellowship with God. God wants to dwell with them and He has placed us in this world to show others they too can have this relationship of love and joy. God did it all! He has shown over and over how much He cares. God is using us to reach out to those lost: our family members, our relatives, our neighbors, our co-workers, all of those created in the image of God. What part do you fill in your relationship to the Lord? May God open the eyes of our hearts to see His love in a greater way and a greater service. Are you reaching out or simply existing? Think about it!!!

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