

## Crave

After I had emailed some material and comments to a friend, this is what she wrote back.

“I have a question. Why are you so convinced that God craves fellowship with us? You used the word *craves*. But God doesn't need us at all. For sure He loves us; that's why he sent Jesus to close the eternal gap. He used to come and walk and talk with Adam and Eve – so I can see that he likes to be with us. But crave?”

Well, what do you think? Does God crave fellowship with us?

Nowhere in the Bible does God say: “I crave your fellowship.” But, while the word *to crave* does mean *to long for, ache for, be zealous for, desire, covet, need and want*. I, personally, believe *crave* is a good word to describe his feelings toward his children. God doesn't do anything halfway. He doesn't feel anything in a halfhearted way. He feels intensely, even extremely, if measured in human terms.

But, even though I cannot quote God as having said, “I *crave* your fellowship,” I believe he does say it and mean it in different ways.

Apostle James writes that the Holy Spirit who lives in us “... *envies intensely?*” (James 4:5). We are the Body of Christ. Body members need interaction with each other and with the head. They cannot live in isolation. Why wouldn't The Head desire fellowship with the members of his own body? We are also the Bride of Christ. He loves us so much he would die for us. (And he did.) A loving bridegroom longs for fellowship with his bride, and vice versa!

My wife, Betty, and I know this firsthand, and all the more after a 60+-years of continuous, cherished relationship.

*Above all else*, our Heavenly Bridegroom is concerned about our not ever forsaking our first love for him (Rev. 2:1-4). And, certainly, he has not lessened his first love for us!

I cannot imagine God the Father *not* craving fellowship with his children. I am a human, imperfect father, yet I crave fellowship with my children. I can't stand the silence, the lack of communication. I need to hear from them. And if that's true for *me*, I, who am created in God's likeness, how can *he* possibly feel anything less? God went looking for Adam and Eve; he took the initiative; he couldn't do otherwise.

And does God need us?

If he did not need us, why would he have made us? He made us to meet his need. That's the kind of God he is. He made us to fill a need, not so much in his intelligent power but in his *heart*. When God said, “It is not good for *man* to be alone,” he was also speaking for himself. If God didn't have a heart need, you and I wouldn't be here. Nature and even angels are not capable of meeting that need. And did God save us, simply because he loved us? It was that, but it was far more.

- We are saved to spread the gospel and to represent him.
- We are saved to appreciate him and to worship him.
- We are saved to serve him.

- We are saved to praise him. (stones would cry out)
- We are saved to do good for his sake.
- We are saved to demonstrate God's rich grace and diverse wisdom.
- And, last but not least, we are saved to fellowship with him.

The "Song of Songs," which King Solomon wrote, was included in the biblical canon, because it is a figure of Christ and the Church, of their special relationship. The theme of this book is mutual commitment and, yes, passion. Its message is epitomized in chapter 7, verse 10.

*"I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me."* Sounds to me like he craves my fellowship. ◇◇◇