

## **CHARITY**

Rev. Robert H. P. Cole

In order to go to heaven we must all live a life of charity. Charity is love to the neighbor. It is a word which means dearness and love. Charity is an act or feeling of love for others, and it is a feeling of being interested in the well-being of others.

Charity also means mercy. And those who love their neighbors as themselves feel pity for their neighbors when they are suffering, as they would feel pity for themselves. By being truly charitable, we come to love the Lord, because the Lord *is* Mercy, and when we think merciful thoughts and do things that are merciful and kind, we are thinking and doing what the Lord wants us to do.

One reason why it is so important that we live a life of charity is that in heaven the angels are always doing kind things for each other and thinking nice thoughts about one another. The things that the angels do are things that the Lord wants them to do. And the angels love the things that they do in heaven, because they have practiced doing good and kind things while they lived in this world.

When we think of doing things that affect others, and when we do things that we want to do, we should ask ourselves if we are really thinking about the other person, or whether we just want to please ourselves. Do you know that when we go to the other world and the Lord sees us there, the first thing that He looks for in us is to see whether we thought about our neighbor more, or whether we thought about ourselves more. And then He will only send us on our way to heaven if we have thought about our neighbor at least as much as we have thought about ourselves.

So we can see that the Lord wants us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to do the things which are of charity, because He cannot be with us and make us happy forever unless we have lived a life of charity.

Amen.