

SPIRITUAL TASK — EVERYONE CAN GO TO HEAVEN (DP 330)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The Writings for the New Church teach very clearly that any individual that lives in the good of charity according to his or her religion is going to heaven. “Heaven is such a place that all who live well, of whatever religion they may be, have a place there.”

Meaning What causes people and religions and churches to be divided is focusing on ideas, opinions, and doctrinal differences rather than on what all those things lead to, which is, love to the Lord and love toward the neighbor. The Lord teaches that all churches would be one if charity were made the most important thing.

Task This week observe how you react inside or outside when you meet or have a discussion with someone who has different beliefs and ideas than you. Is there a feeling of restriction in your chest? Do you immediately try to change their minds? Do you tell them they are misled? Instead of looking for differences, look for common ground. And try saying to yourself, “This person is a child of God. The Lord loves them as much as He loves me or anyone else on this planet. Lord open my eyes so I may see Your life and goodness flowing through them.”