

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
SETTING PRIORITIES

As we set priorities in our lives, it is useful to reflect on whether the choices we make are motivated from love to the Lord or love of self. Now, everyone must take good care of themselves and make sure they have the necessities of life so that they can be useful to others. But what if someone is *always* wondering “What’s in it for me?”

Achieving a balance between meeting your own needs so you can best serve others and yet not focusing just on yourself can be difficult at times. What might some key elements be for you to achieve this balance?

The Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church tells us that if a person loves the world and himself *above* all things, he does good things with honor, reputation, and gain topmost in his mind. People who love ruling from a delight of controlling others rather than from the love of useful services appear to be upside down when seen in the light of heaven. But if people are motivated by love of the Lord and the neighbor, then they appear right side up.

Loving ourselves and things of the material world are OK, as long as they are not the center of our lives. What are some ways you could focus less on the world and more on other people to help you work on being “right side up”?

We all spend a lot of time in this world “on our sides” as we work on prioritizing our loves. When we begin to love others as much or more than we love ourselves, a new life from the Lord begins to grow within us.

Can you think of a time when you felt the Lord’s love within you, either consciously at the time or in looking back? Did it come in your feelings for another person? A response to the beauty of nature? Something else?