

## DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

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# GOD, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

by the Rev. B. David Holm

Sometimes it is hard to explain to our friends just what the New Church believes. Of course we know that the New Church believes in the Writings given by the Lord through Emanuel Swedenborg, but it is harder to explain just what those Writings teach.

The most important truth of the New Church is that there is a God—one God—who created heaven and earth. As you probably already know, some people refuse to believe in God. They are called Atheists. They believe that the universe created itself by the accidental joining of chemicals. Their belief does not stand up to reason or common sense. Just take a tree for instance—how many accidents would it have taken for that tree to have developed into what it is? How many accidents would there have had to be for just one leaf on that tree to grow? Think of how many different things there are in the universe—trillions of separate things. Think of the wonder of the human body. The chances of all this wonderful order happening by accident are almost impossible to figure mathematically—one chance in a “zillion”.

Some people realize this and admit that there is some “force” behind creation, but they don’t think of this “force” as a Divinely Human God. They don’t think of God as a Man. Neither “accident” nor “force” can have a purpose or goal. For they do not have a mind. It takes a human mind to have a real goal. It takes a Divine Mind for there to be a purpose in creation. We of the New Church believe there is a Divine purpose in Creation and that we can see that purpose in nature. The mineral kingdom supports the vegetable kingdom. The vegetable kingdom supports the animal kingdom. And all three kingdoms support mankind—the highest or “crown” of creation. *The purpose in creation is mankind.*

Everything in the universe, then, was created to aid and support the human race. Why? Because God is Love—Love itself—and creation is a work of His love. Now, real love wants to love others and not oneself. More than anything else the Lord wanted to create *people* whom He could love and who could love Him in return. The Lord loves the whole of His creation, but the lower things of creation cannot really love the Lord in return. Only human beings can *consciously* respond to and love the Creator. But why does the Lord want us to love Him? Certainly not for selfish reasons, for the Lord is the opposite of selfishness. The reason lies in the nature of love. Love alone can unite people. When you love someone, and they love you, in a very real sense you are one with them. The Lord wants to be united with every person of the human race—to be one with them. This can happen only if we love Him in return, for if love is to unite, it must be *mutual*. If you love someone but they don’t love you, then you cannot be united with them.

Now, the Lord’s love is not just during our life on earth. Real love wants to make people happy *always*. The Lord would never be satisfied by just loving us while we lived in this world. This is

why He created the whole Spiritual world, which we can enter after death and where we can be loved and made happy by the Lord in heaven forever. This brings us to the final purpose of creation--that the Lord may make a heaven from the human race. A heaven from the human race is the final purpose of creation and the highest goal of our Creator. This is the purpose of the whole universe.

From all this you can see that we of the New Church reject all thoughts of Atheism as unreasonable and lacking common sense. For they see no purpose in creation. We earnestly believe that God created the universe for a purpose. That purpose is the human race and an everlasting heaven from the human race. Now this is much more than just a useful thing to think about. When we understand the purpose of the Lord we then have a responsibility. That responsibility is to truly try to make the Lord's purpose our own. Just as His Love wants to make a heaven from the human race, so should we with love cooperate with the Lord by living His commandments so He can lead us into His heaven. Only in this way can the Lord's loving purpose of our creation be accomplished in our lives.