

Serving the Lord

An Introduction to the Rules of Life Project

The Lord speaks to us in His Word, giving us guidance for our lives. By reading and reflecting on His teachings, we are able to cooperate with His goals for us. Emanuel Swedenborg is an example of a person who was able to serve the Lord partly because he conscientiously read the Word. In his “Rules for Life,” the very first one is: “Diligently to read and meditate on the Word of God.” Starting as a young boy, Swedenborg prayed to the Lord and read His Word. He was very interested in science, for he wanted to learn all about the natural world. He enjoyed learning, and he kept studying long after he finished school. But he never forgot the advice of his father: “I beg you most earnestly that you will fear and love God above all else, for without this fear of God all other training, all study, all learning is of no account.”

Late in life, Swedenborg wrote 35 books that we call the Writings or the Heavenly Doctrines. It took him 24 years to write them all before he died in 1772. Some books told deeper meanings of the Word. Others described life after death, how the Lord created the world, how the Lord leads us, and the genuine marriage love called “conjugal love.” About these books, Swedenborg wrote, “I have not written anything from myself, but the truth from God.” These precious books are the Lord’s Writings, but He gave them to the world through Emanuel Swedenborg.

Each of us has the potential to serve the Lord and each other in wonderful ways. The best preparation includes reading the Lord’s Word and reflecting or meditating on it. We have included a copy of Swedenborg’s Rules for Life with a decorative border. If you wish, you may print it out and color the border.



Rules of Life

Diligently to read and meditate on the Word of God

To be content under the dispensations of God's providence.

To observe propriety of behavior and to keep the conscience clear.

To obey what is ordered, to attend faithfully to one's office and other duties and in addition to make one's self useful to society in general.

Emanuel Swedenborg

Born January 29, 1688

R. C. Gienn