

Talking About the New Church



Key ideas that we can teach children about the New Church

Your children may have questions about the New Church and wonder how to talk about it with friends who have different beliefs. Here are some key ideas that you can share with children of various ages.

Little ones can be taught:

- Church is a place where people who want to be good can gather together
- The church is the Lord's heaven on earth.
- The Lord invites everyone to belong to His New Church.
- People become part of the church when they obey and live what they have learned from the Word.

When children are older, they can learn that:

- June 19th is the birthday of the New Church.
- The New Church comes to earth when we read the Word and use the Lord's truth to live a good life and help other people.
- The purpose of the church is to teach people how to be good and loving.
- If we don't choose to be good we are not in the church, no matter how much we know.

Ideas for teenagers include:

- The two uses of the church are worship and preaching the gospel.
- All are saved who worship one God and lead the life of religion.
- The three essentials of the Lord's church are the Divinity of the Lord, the holiness of the Word, and the importance of a life of charity.
- In addition to acknowledging the Divinity of the Lord, it is important to learn truths from the Word and do them (see *Apocalypse Explained* 388).

Special teachings of the New Church

The woman clothed with the sun gives birth to a male child in Revelation 12. With this image of a baby boy, the Lord is speaking about spiritual ideas given to help people have a new understanding of His Word. These ideas or doctrines form the foundation of the New Church, which is being established by the Lord today in heaven and on earth.

What are some of these special truths?

- 1. The Lord is the God of heaven and earth.**
 - There is only one God, and there is a Divine Trinity in Him.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ is that one God (see *Conjugial Love* 532).
 - The New Church "is to worship one visible God in whom is the invisible like the soul in the body" (*True Christian Religion* 787).
- 2. Each and every detail of the Word has a spiritual meaning, which can conjoin people with the Lord and link them with angels (see *Conjugial Love* 532).**
- 3. True love in marriage comes only from the Lord, and He gives it to the people who live according to His commandments (see *Conjugial Love* 534).**
- 4. The Lord has revealed the nature of heaven and hell so that people can learn about the world in which angels and spirits live (see *Conjugial Love* 532).**

How do these truths influence our relationship of the Lord and our life goals? How might sharing these teachings help others?