



The Grand Human

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 7 | Eternal Life

Lesson Overview

1. Brain Builder

Think about the entire human race.

2. Watch a Video

Watch *You Are the Lungs* (4min 35 sec), online at bitly.com/YouLungs

3. Discuss

Discuss the ideas presented in the video in the light of New Church teachings about the Grand Human or heaven.

New Church Concept More People Perfect Heaven

Every perfection in the heavens increases with increase of number. The reason is that all there have one end in view, and look with one accord to that end. That end is the common good; and when it reigns, there is, from the common good, good to each individual, and from the good of each individual, there is good to the whole community. *Heaven and Hell* 418

Brain Builder

1. How many people are alive today? (7.8 billion)
2. Which countries have the highest populations in the world? (China, India, US)
3. What advantages and disadvantages are there to having higher populations?
4. Since all who die go to heaven, heaven is growing more rapidly than ever before too. How would having more people in heaven make heaven a better place? (see sidebar on left)
5. The New Church teaches that heaven, when seen as one community, appears as a “Grand Human.” Each individual has a unique role in the Grand Human. We are going to watch a video that looks at the roles of individuals in human society, especially ways in which working together brings health to the community.

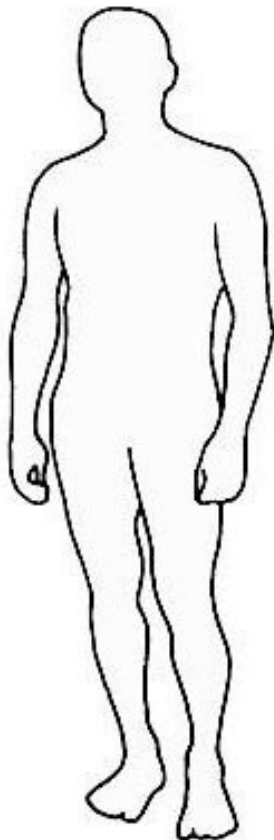
Watch a Video

Watch *You Are the Lungs* at bitly.com/YouLungs (4min 35sec). (Enter bitly links in the browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Discuss

1. The video weaves together how the human body works with the workings of human society. Is it an accurate picture of the Grand Human? Or is it designed to make people to think about how communities in the world could be organized to be more like heaven?
2. The author compares red blood cells to communicators such as authors and educators, who harness thoughts in society and circulate them so that everyone can receive and be affected by the ideas. Do you know any “red blood cell” people? In what ways do you see yourself as a red blood cell?
3. The author talks about the blood circulating positive as well as negative thoughts. Have you ever caught yourself circulating negative thoughts? In what ways can this harm the body (society)?
4. While we live in the world, good and bad are side by side. Sometimes people are influenced by good. At other times they fall under the spell of evil. The natural world we live in is a world of choice. We experience evil so we can learn what it is and choose to flee from it or avoid it. How is this different from the spiritual world we enter after death?

5. When people arrive in the world of spirits they are a mixture of good and evil—like people in the world. But this does not last. As people are prepared for their eternal homes during the second stage in the world of spirits, heaven and hell are separated within the person. Heaven and hell cannot both remain in a person since they are spiritual opposites. People who have embraced heavenly qualities while on earth eventually find their place in the grand man



of heaven. People who embraced selfish qualities on earth rush towards their place within the “grand monster” of hell. So the bloodstream of the grand man of heaven does not carry “bad” ideas—but only good ones. It is impossible to lead a truly selfish life on earth and go to heaven. Why is knowing this important?

6. The video says, “What the eye sees, everyone sees.” How is this true in the world? How is it true in heaven? What does it tell us about the working relationship between different parts of the grand man, or heaven?

7. How would *you* define heaven? (see Writings’ definition of heaven, on right)

8. The video describes heaven as a state, “when everybody’s doing their part in the great body...when all contribute to the whole...so we all benefit.... When every little part of every cell is feeding from the whole and giving to the whole...we call that heaven.” Compare your definition and the Writings’ definition of heaven with the ideas put forward in the video. Do they agree or disagree?

Read

Read the statements from the Writings on the Grand Human and the Grand Monster, on right.

1. Did the video help you visualize what the Grand Human is like?
2. How did the statements from the Writings help you understand the Grand Human?

See more on this topic in FaithBuilder 4 Lesson 8, *Societies in the Grand Human*.

The Lord's kingdom is ..a kingdom of uses; and if in an earthly kingdom every-one is valued and honored according to his use, how much more is this the case in the heavenly kingdom!

Arcana Coelestia 5395

Grand Human

Heaven in its whole complex resembles one human being. Since the angels know that all the heavens with their societies resemble one person they therefore call heaven the Grand and Divine Human. See *Heaven and Hell* 59

In general, the highest or third heaven forms the head down to the neck, the middle or second heaven forms the breast down to the loins and knees, the lowest or first heaven forms the feet down to the soles and also the arms down to the fingers, for the arms and hands are the ultimates of a person, although at the sides. *Heaven and Hell* 65

Grand Monster

[Those who are motivated by love of self, love of the world, and their own evil desires] are outside the Grand Human—indeed they are in hell. They do not correspond to any organs or members within the body but to various defects and diseases.... They hate their neighbor and are ruthless in their interactions with them. When they do good it is because the law requires it or because it will benefit them in some way. See *Arcana Coelestia* 4225

