



The Purpose of Creation

Lesson Overview

1. Did God Know Me Before I Was Born?

Why are humans created?

2. Read

Discover New Church teachings about human creation

3. Watch a Video

Watch *God's Presence in Us* at bit.ly/GodsPresenceInUs (5min 6sec).

4. Discuss

What is God's design for the human race?

New Church Concepts Creation

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? Psalm 8:3-4

Vine and Branches

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (see John 15:5-8).

FaithBuilder 1 | Lesson 27 | Divine Providence

Did God Know Me Before I Was Born?

Choose questions to prompt thinking about God's creation.

1. What do you think the following words from Psalm 139 mean?

*Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they were all written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.*

- God knew the details of my life before I was born.
 - God plans what my life will be like.
 - God has a book of life, and what I do is written there.
 - God foresaw that I would be born and guides my choices.
2. Compare the following statements: *God created me for eternal life in heaven,* and *My life is a result of evolution.*
3. In what ways do these two opinions make a difference to a person's attitude towards life?

Creation

The Word begins with the seven days of creation. Each day the earth is formed and filled with plants, marine life, birds and animals. On the sixth day, the Lord finished by creating humankind, His crowning work.

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:27-28).

Creation continues today as each human being is lovingly created by the Lord, in His image. The Lord has a purpose for each person's life, and He sees this before we are even born.

Birth brings us into the natural world, but this is just one aspect of our lives. Our bodies act as containers for our spirits, allowing us to put into action what we think and love; to express the life of our spirit. To become fully human we must experience a second birth.

"Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but

cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:5-8).

Our second birth is a birth into the heavenly life that the Lord intends for every person. This is the purpose of our creation.

Born for Heaven

What is heavenly life? We experience heavenly life when we are linked together with others in the Lord, leading lives of useful activity. The Lord says,

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:5-8).

Living in the Lord involves loving Him and doing what He teaches. The fruits of this choice are acts of useful service to others. This is heaven.

Linked with Others in the Lord

Just as each cell in the physical body is joined with other cells to form organs, systems, and a functioning body, so individuals working for a common purpose in groups and communities form the whole of heaven. In the Lord’s eyes heaven is a person on the grand scale, a Grand Man. The Lord creates each of us for a unique place in heaven where we find connection with others like a cell in the Divine body.

Although forming heaven out of people is the continual design of the Divine Providence, its inmost design is that a person may be in this or that place in heaven, or in this or that place in the Divine Heavenly Man; for in this way he is in the Lord. This happens only with those whom the Lord can lead to heaven; and as the Lord foresees this, He also provides continually that a person may become like this. For in this way everyone who allows himself to be led to heaven is prepared for his own place in heaven. See *Divine Providence* 67

In heaven we will live not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others with whom we share heavenly community.

Watch a Video

Watch *God’s Presence in Us* (5min 6sec) at bit.ly/GodsPresenceInUs. (Enter bitly link in web browser search bar at the top of your screen.) *Note: This video was designed with adults in mind. Preview to see if your group would benefit from watching it.*

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. What is God’s Divine design for the human race?
2. What kinds of things can block a two-way relationship with God?
3. Is it possible to see the spiritual reality that God created all forms of life using the scientific method?
4. Under what circumstances can we experience heavenly life?
5. What is God’s purpose for your life?

New Church Concept Grand man

The entire heaven 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 Man. See *Heaven and Hell* 59

Because heaven as a whole and in part, from the Lord’s Divine Human, reflects a human being, the angels say that they are in the Lord; and some say that they are in His body, meaning that they are in the good of His love. *Heaven and Hell* 81

We are not born for our own sake; we are born for the sake of others. That is, we are not born to live for ourselves alone, we are born to live for others. Otherwise society would not hold together and there would be no good in it. See *True Christianity* 406

We are to love the Lord God above all things, and our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27). To love our neighbor as ourselves means not despising our neighbors in comparison with ourselves. It means treating them justly and not judging them wrongfully. The law of goodwill pronounced and given by the Lord Himself is this: Whatever you want people to do to you, do likewise for them.... (Matthew 7:12) This is how people who love heaven love their neighbor. People who love the world, however, love their neighbor on a worldly basis for a worldly benefit. People who love themselves love their neighbor in a selfish way for a selfish benefit. *True Christianity* 411