



What we choose on earth forms the nature of our spirit. After physical death, we will choose the kind of life we are comfortable with and experience either the joy which comes from helping others in heaven or the misery of selfish living in hell.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*The path to grow spiritually is simple.*

### LOOK TO THE LORD

Learn what God teaches. Ask Him to show you what changes need to be made in your life. Pray for guidance every day.

### LOOK AT YOURSELF

What habits or behaviors are harming your relationship with God, your family members, your friends, and others?

### CONFESS TO THE LORD

Admit to the things you do which you see are wrong. Pray that God will remove any selfishness you may have and help you move forward.

### WORK ON IT

Choose one habit, thought pattern, or behavior that you wish to change, and ask God to remove it from your life. Take action yourself, but remember that it is the Lord who gives you the strength to overcome temptations and change. Pray for the power to change.

### BEGIN A NEW LIFE

Ask God to help you look forward in this new direction, and show you new opportunities to be of service to other people. Through this process you will become more compassionate, more peaceful, wiser, and less fearful. You will experience greater closeness to God. This is spiritual rebirth.

## THE NEW CHURCH



[www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org)

# Basic Beliefs



NEW CHURCH PERSPECTIVE SERIES

# New Church Beliefs

The New Church offers many new ideas about God, faith, life after death, freedom, the Word of God and the Second Coming. Here are a few New Church ideas on these topics.



## God Is One

There is one loving, personal God, and He is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the physical manifestation of the one God, called Jehovah in the Old Testament. Each of us has a soul, body, and activity (impact on others), and we are just one person. In the same way, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God in one person.

## God Is Love and Life

*Nothing but good can come from God, because His very nature is love.*

God is the source of all life and is constantly present in all life. God's goal in creation is an eternal union, or close loving relationship, between the Creator and the created universe, especially human beings. Our purpose in this world is to build a loving relationship with God. We are meant to be of useful service to other people and to live a good life according to our beliefs.

## Faith

Faith is an acknowledgement of what is true. But faith without charity is nothing. In much the same way that the lungs breathing and the heart beating work together to sustain our physical life, our faith building and guiding and charity loving and doing work together to sustain our spiritual life.



*Heaven and hell are both states of being that we choose.*

## Heaven, Hell, and Judgment

Heaven is where good people from this world live on as angels after death. In the New Church we teach that people of every faith are saved and welcomed into heaven if they live sincerely according to their religion. All religions have goodness in them.

Heaven and hell are both states of being determined by our choices. Heaven is not a reward for the good things we have done or for choosing the right faith. Hell is not a punishment for the bad things we have done or for having the wrong faith. We can choose heaven freely by choosing to love God and other people and by living a life of service. We can also choose hell by freely choosing to embrace a selfish, dishonest, or hurtful way of life.\*

What we choose on earth forms the nature of our spirit, leading us to choose the same kind of life after death. We choose what we are comfortable with, and so we will experience either the joy which comes from helping others in heaven or the misery of selfish living in hell. God does not judge us; we judge ourselves.

\*When a child dies, he or she always goes to heaven.

## Freedom

Freedom is an essential component of spiritual life. Our beliefs must come from inquiry, reflection and reasoning, not blind acceptance. Our spiritual life must originate in our hearts and minds, not from outside pressure. God always preserves our freedom to choose what we believe and what we do.

## The Word of God

The Bible is not just a recorded history. It is the Word of God. The New Church teaches that the Old and New Testaments, even when describing actual history, contain valuable parables or metaphors. This inner sense gives deeper insights into God, spiritual growth, and the human condition. The New Church draws its philosophy from the Old Testament, New Testament and the theological books of Emanuel Swedenborg which describe this deeper level of meaning in detail.

## The Second Coming

The New Church teaches that Jesus Christ will not be coming again in His physical body. The book of Revelation describes a new spiritual awakening for humankind. The Second Coming is the unfolding of the inner or spiritual sense of the Bible. This deeper meaning shows us the true nature of God, creation, and ourselves. We believe that God, by means of the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, gave this deeper understanding to humankind. We experience the Second Coming when God's truth comes alive within us, bringing about spiritual change.