

The Covenant, The Promise

The decision to get married is an important one because the couple is deciding to enter into an eternal covenant, not only with each other, but with the Lord. *"Love truly conjugal is from the Lord alone, and exists with those who are in the union of good and truth from the Lord. When two minds are conjoined as to be one mind, there is love between them. ...And into such a union, heaven breathes."*

(Apocalypse Explained 983, 992)

The Lord has given many wonderful gifts to His people, including the promise of an eternal love into which have been gathered *"all joys and all delights."* It is a beautiful promise to all people, whether or not they are married in this world, and is the source of the greatest happiness possible.

"For those who desire love truly conjugal the Lord provides... if not given on earth,... in the heavens." (Conjugal Love 229)

Imagine that - the Lord gives this beautiful gift to everyone who wants to have it! The New Church offers a wonderful vision of true love in marriage. Come and learn for yourself about its special joys and delights!

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:9-11)



The following pamphlets are also available from the Office of Evangelization:

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The Bible's Deeper Meaning

Life After Death

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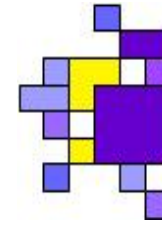
Together As One

Who is God?

General Church Office of Evangelization
at: 1-877-411-HOPE,
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General Church Office of Evangelization
P.O. Box 743
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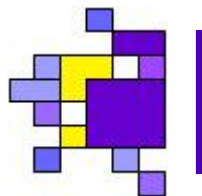


Heavenly Marriage



Building the Lord's Church in
People's Minds, Hearts, and Lives

www.newchurch.org



A Special Love

The Bible begins with the story of Creation:

“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....” (Genesis 1:27, 28)

“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him... Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:18, 24)

We can see that God created men and women for each other. There is a promise that He will bless married partners with a special love that grows deeper and becomes more precious as they look to God and love each other - what a beautiful gift!

God wants people to be happy and that is why He created this very special love. It is a gift from Him to married people who try to obey His commandments. It doesn't just come automatically. Married people, and even people who aren't yet married, have to work for this love. If people want to be happily married, they need to turn away from selfishness and lust, and be willing to follow God's will. True and lasting marriages happen when two people who love each other decide to join their lives and follow the Lord together. The Lord is at the center of their relationship. This is what is meant by His words in Matthew 19:6: *“What God has joined together, let no one separate.”*

This also means that true marriages are between one man and one woman who are faithful to each other.

Love is Eternal

One of the beautiful teachings of the New Church is that marriages can last forever - even after death. This may seem hard to believe because Jesus said, *“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage....”* (Matthew 22:30)

Jesus knew that the idea people had about marriage, at that time, was not spiritual, and not as it is in heaven. People at that time thought of marriage as a legal agreement and knew very little about the special love that exists between married partners. Now, in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, God tells us that there is true marriage in heaven, that marriage love is the source of all loves and is eternal:

“When married partners love each other tenderly, they think of eternity in regard to the marriage covenant, and not at all of it ending with death.” (Conjugal Love 216)

This love - called “conjugal love” - is also described as the most beautiful love two people can experience, both in this world and in heaven.

“The states coming from this love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, complete trust, a mutual desire of the mind and heart to do to the other every good.” (Conjugal Love 180)

“Conjugal love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven.” (Apocalypse Explained 993)

Preparing For Love

How do people prepare themselves for receiving this love? By being willing to follow the Lord, individually and together as a couple. This involves turning away from what is wrong, learning to love what is good and true, and trying to live a life obeying God's commandments. As people do this, they feel closer to the Lord. As married partners do this, they also feel closer to each other. When people are open to the Lord working in their lives, they feel His presence, allowing miracles of happiness to happen!

Having a happy, healthy marriage - like having a healthy spiritual life - takes work. Married partners need to practice forgiveness and look closely at their own faults, praying for the Lord's guidance and listening carefully to His leading. They need to turn away from selfishness and especially adultery because adultery breaks the marriage covenant. And the Lord promises that, as they do this, they will be blessed and will become closer to each other:

“The marriage of love truly conjugal is the union of two in thought and will, and those who are in it love to think and will each as the other and to become one person. Those who live together like this on earth, live together as angels after death.” (Arcana Coelestia 2732)

