

Generally there are two sources of all harmful evil actions. One is that people have a tendency to love controlling each other. We like the feeling of having power over other people. The second source of harm is that people have a tendency to love possessions. No matter how much we have, we generally want more.

People are allowed to act freely according to their own rational thought, so these two harmful drives are not always restrained in them or society. If they were not allowed to surface, we would not be so clear about how harmful they are. With clarity comes the choice to accept or resist them. This is why evil/harmful incidents are not prevented by acts of God.

Still, God is at work in the smallest details of everyone's life. Nothing is allowed to happen that will not eventually be able to serve the goal of our eternal well being.

"Peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things, and provides all things, and that He leads to a good end. When people have this faith, they are peaceful, they fear nothing, and no worry about the future upset them. People come into this state of being in proportion as they come into a loving relationship with the Lord."

Heavenly Secrets: 8455 by Emanuel Swedenborg

Spiritual Growth

The path is really very 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?

Take responsibility - Acknowledge the things that you do which you see are unhealthy and wrong. Confess them to God and ask for His help to overcome them.

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.

Begin a new life - Through this process we become more compassionate, wiser, and less fearful. We are spiritually reborn.

The New Church

www.newchurch.org



Where is God?

New Church Perspective Series

Where is God?

Why did God create the world?

When we love another person we want to have a good relationship with them. When they are happy, we are happy too. We are like this because the Lord is like this. God's nature is pure love. God created the universe so that there would be somewhere to extend this love and put it into action. People were created to be able to think, understand and love so that we could choose to develop a relationship with God. The purpose of this relationship is so that God can bless us and bring us happiness. We are someone to love.



Is God still here?

Yes. The New Church teaches that the universe is a coherent work that is 'constantly coming into being.' The Lord is present in everything that exists at every moment.

God's presence in people

God is life itself. Everything else, the stars, the earth, rocks, plants, animals, and people have life and existence from God. Nothing exists independently except God. The Lord Jesus Christ is the human manifestation of God.

The Lord is present in all the abilities that make us human. The Lord provides and constantly maintains our ability to judge between what is good and what is not.



God leads

God is present in the events of our lives. Sometimes it may seem to us that this can't be true. Bad things happen to us and to other people we love. There is always crime and war happening somewhere. Where is God when these things happen?

The New Church offers this perspective: We are never to be compelled by any outside force in any matter of faith or religion. This would take away the things that make us human - our ability to think, reason, deliberate and choose. So God will never force us to believe, do, or not do anything.

God

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. As each of us has a soul, mind, and body in one person, so is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit one