

DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

THE ONENESS OF GOD

by the Rev. Robert H. P. Cole

The Writings tell us that there is a universal influx from God into the souls of men, teaching them that there is a God and He is One (TCR 8). God is a being of Infinite Love, Wisdom and Power. As Jesus Christ, He clothed Himself with a human form and a human life on earth.

Many people of the Old Church have, to this day, not understood how the Lord could be one God, although, as we saw above, they have the inner feeling that He is. Unfortunately, however, some of their ministers still try to teach them that God is three persons. They say the Father is one of these persons. And they continue to claim that He sent His only Son into the world to die for our sins. Then according to them, another person, the Holy Spirit took charge of everything the Lord had been doing on the earth after He left to return to heaven to be with His Father. But He will return at the end of the world to gather all who are good to His Father in heaven. This is not just an Old Church teaching that is gathering dust in their books of doctrine and the like. But it is actually being preached right now by clergymen.

I have even heard some Old Church ministers, whose churches have paid for adult television programs, lecturing to intelligent panels of college students and other thinking young people in the same illogical and unimpressive fashion. Amazingly enough, these students and others are free to express their points of view in situations such as this, and nearly all of them tend to question the Old Church doctrine and to cast serious doubts before the listening audience—especially about the concept of the trinity being presented. But let us go over what the real truth is concerning the oneness of God.

The Writings teach that the Divine cannot be separated from the Human nor the Human from the Divine, for this would be like separating our soul from our body. (*Lord* 29) Or to put it another way, the Divine is in the Human of the Lord, just as our soul is in our body. But the Holy Spirit is everything that comes about as a result of the Lord's inmost-self being within His glorified Human. With us, our entire active life on earth is the result of our soul being within our body, and it is similar, but on a Divine plane, with the Lord, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Now, let us consider each of these qualities of the Lord. By "the Father" is meant the Divine Itself. This aspect of the Lord created all things and continues to create all the time. The Father created His own earthly body that He could inhabit while on earth. This is the Human. It is called, or the Lord on earth was called, the Son of God because He Himself was the Divine soul in His own earthly body. The Holy Spirit is the Lord's presence and guidance everywhere.

One reason the Writings give us for people thinking falsely about the Lord—imagining Him to be three persons—is that they think about a person from his material body, and not from his spiritual body; when the truth is that all the angels are spiritual and are also men and women in a complete form that is like our human form but more substantial and which lasts forever.

Besides this, everything that is Divine that comes from the Lord, from its beginnings in heaven all the way down to the most outward things in this world, has a tendency to be in a human form. (*Lord 32*) Also all the heavens when seen together by the Lord appear in an ever more perfect wonderful human form. And this is because it reflects the happiness and usefulness of the angels, fulfilling the Lord's purpose of creation, which is a heaven from the human race.

From these things we can perhaps begin to see more clearly how the Lord is one Divine Person, how He is at the same time, or within His Person, a Divine loving Father who created a Divinely wise Man who lived on earth, and the Spirit of all that is Holy and Useful. This is why the Writings say that Jehovah God is Divine Love, Divine Wisdom and Divine Use and has the new name—The Lord God Jesus Christ, the one God of heaven and earth.

This is also why we are to shun all of our evils as sins against Him, love our neighbor, or all that is good in others, more than ourselves and pray to the Lord alone that He will lead us through an orderly, good and useful life on earth and on into heaven after death.

The Lord works unceasingly to bring this about in each one of us, just as He worked unceasingly throughout His life on earth fighting one temptation after another brought on by the devils in hell. It was in this way that He made His earthly Human completely one with His inmost heavenly Being and can now work directly with each one of us as one person to another, helping us with the fight against our own temptations, regenerating us or making us a better person in His sight.

The Word of the Old Testament treats of the Lord as the Father of all, the New Testament describes how He came on earth, and what He did here, and the Writings, which are His Second Coming, reveal the origin and purpose of creation, the meaning of the Lord's life on earth and the essential truths of religion. All of these descriptive New Church teachings, then, are true of the one God Jesus Christ that we worship who is King of Kings and Lord of all.

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