



The Lord Loves Us

Lesson Overview

1. What Moves You?

Why do we find some people attractive and others repulsive?

2. Watch a Video

Watch *Divine Solar Energy* (5min 10sec) at bit.ly/DivineSolarEnergy.

3. God's Love in the Word

The Word gives us many images that provide examples of ways in which the Lord loves us. p.2

3. Optional Activity

Pick a meaningful way in which you think of the Lord's great love for you and write it on a flat stone with a permanent marker as a reminder of His love. p.2

New Church Concept Life Force

Our actual life force, or actual vitality, comes from heavenly love. Nothing living can possibly exist unless it derives from that source. *Secrets of Heaven* 1436

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What Moves You?

Have you ever been attracted to another person? A person you want to be near, to look at, to talk to, to spend time with? We've probably all met others we are attracted to. Have you met someone you want to avoid—someone who made you want to cross the road when you saw them coming, someone you didn't want to sit next to, someone whose eyes you try to avoid?

1. Why do some people give us positive energy while others repel us—like magnets?
2. Why are some personality traits repulsive to one person and attractive to another? What is it *in us* that drives who we find attractive?
3. How can feelings of attraction protect us from harm *or* become hazardous to us?
4. Are we always attracted to good things? Can we tell if what we are attracted to is good or bad?
5. Which of these characteristics does the Lord have? Does everyone find the Lord's love attractive—or just some people?

Watch a Video

Watch *Divine Solar Energy* (5min 10sec) at bitly.com/DivineSolarEnergy. (Enter bitly link in web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

1. In what ways can people be aware of the spiritual energy they “pull in”?
2. What kind of energy emanates or radiates out from God? *Name* the energy. How do the words “good” and “truth” relate to your daily life? What other words might you use to mean the same thing?
3. What do people in hell focus on that closes them off from the inflowing Divine? (See *Arcana Coelestia* 10188 on the right hand side of the next page.)
4. Compare the sphere that emanates from the Lord with the sphere that emanates from a person. How much can a person's sphere affect others? How much can the Lord's sphere affect others?
5. Is there ever a time when a person does not have the love of God with him or her? Can we completely block the Lord out? Can devils in hell completely block out the Lord?
6. How does the Lord manage to reach us when we block Him out?

The Lord's Love

The Sun of heaven, which is the Lord, is God's love; for that is how this love manifests itself there. The heat radiating from it is the good of love, while the light radiating from it is the truth of faith. This is why in the Word the sun is used to mean God's love, its fire and heat being the good of love, and its light the truth of faith.... The sphere of Divine Good fills the whole of heaven, and also extends into hell; for it is like the sphere of the sun's heat in the world, which in summer reaches even into dark places where the sun does not appear. That Divine sphere was likened by the ancients to circles of radiating light which had God in the middle of them and angels round about. Those who allow themselves to be led by the Lord, and so who receive what is Divine from Him, are in the sphere of Divine Good, to the extent that they are receptive. Those however who are not receptive are, it is true, in that same sphere; but their interiors are closed off, to such an extent that they are insensitive to its influx. For the attention of those in hell is fixed on things of an external nature and not on those of an internal nature. From these external things furthermore evils and consequent falsities emanate, which as they appear around those spirits look like a pall of smoke from a furnace. As a consequence of this the external sphere of Divine Good there loses its effectiveness, while the internal sphere nevertheless remains. See *Secrets of Heaven* 10188

God's Love in the Word

The Word provides many illustrations of God's love for the human race.

He "lays down His life for His friends". (John 15)

He calls us not servants but friends. (John 15)

He promises to be "with us" and never to leave us. (Matthew 28:20)

He preaches mercy and forgiveness *as well as* the importance of keeping the commandments and doing what is good.

While He wants us to obey Him so we can be most happy, He always loves us. Jesus even forgave His enemies from the cross, saying they didn't know what they were doing. (*True Christian Religion* 539, 409)

He promises to bless us. (Numbers 6:24)

He protects us like a mother hen protects her chicks. (Psalm 91:4, Luke 13:34)

1. Which of these illustrations do you find most comforting?
2. Which would you mention to someone who believes that God is always angry with us?

Optional Activity

Gather smooth flat stones such as you'd find on a beach or by a river that are large enough to write two or three words on. Using permanent markers in any color, choose a word (in green) or phrase (in bold black and green) describing God's love and write it on a smooth stone.

Keep it with you to remember God's great love for you.

God is my Friend	God is always present	God never leaves me
God cares	God protects	God forgives
God is merciful	God keeps me safe	God gives peace
God blesses	God brings happiness	God loves me
God is powerful	God loves everyone	God accepts