

Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School – Lessons for the Advanced Level

Lesson 2: DOING GOOD

Doctrine of Charity, chapter 2

Introductory Ideas for the Second Lesson

Chapter 1 discussed the first steps we need to take in order to change our lives and prepare for the Lord's Advent in our hearts. In order for us to do anything that is genuinely good, we have to look to the Lord and repent from our sins. Here are a few review questions:

1. Some people believe that babies are born completely pure and innocent. Others believe that babies are born as a blank slate or a "*tabula rasa*"—on which we write our book of life. Last week we talked about what people are like when they are born. What does the Heavenly Doctrine teach about what we are like when we are born? (See *Charity 2*).
2. What steps do we have to take to do things that are genuinely good in our lives?
3. What about people who do not look to the Lord, or shun evils as sins—are the things that they do really good?
4. In today's lesson we will be looking at the second step in acting charitably.

Some Key Points in Chapter 2:

Chapter 2 prescribes doing goods, because they are uses. It also tells us that evil people, along with good people can do good services, however they are not charity with the person who does them.

Charity 14 states that "One who loves another fears to do the person evil." We sometimes talk about fear of the Lord. What do you think that means in the light of this number?

Charity 15 refers to the 10 Commandments, pointing out that those who disobey them are obviously not in love of their neighbor. We too need to obey the Commandments and shun what is evil in order to be genuinely charitable. The 10 Commandments outline some fairly serious evils, e.g. murder, theft. In what ways might we murder someone, or steal something that isn't ours in our daily lives?

Charity 17 makes a reference to the Sermon on the Mount. This number contains an essential idea: Unless we shun evils first, doing all these good things is only an outwardly good act. We can do them selfishly and they can actually be inwardly evil. Perhaps you can think of an example or story to tell the students that illustrates this point. Or pose scenarios for them to ponder.

Charity 18 presents the mistaken idea that good wipes out evil. We cannot earn our way to heaven by doing good deeds. Without acknowledging and shunning our evils we cannot do anything that is truly good.

Charity 20 makes a distinction between shunning evil and doing good. Make sure the students have a clear understanding of this distinction.



Charity 23 introduces the terms civil, moral and spiritual. These will be covered at greater length in the next chapter, but the students should have a basic grasp of these terms.

Charity 40 states that all people can do good. But it is only genuine or spiritual good or charity if a person has first shunned what is evil.