

# INTRODUCING SWEDENBORG'S DIVINE LOVE & WISDOM

## Introduction

People look for help with basic questions about God, human existence and our own inner and outer individual lives. Traditional western religion and science do not generally provide satisfying answers and so we look elsewhere, trying out all kinds of ideas and practises that are around.

Emanuel Swedenborg's book *Divine Love and Wisdom* which he published in 1763, gives a clear and comprehensive presentation of spiritual principles which address life's basic questions and experiences. It deals with what we might call cosmic realities and the foundations of life and eternity, so it is not a book that is easy to read in one sense, but it draws together the overall structure and processes of creation and human life. It really is a remarkable achievement for a human mind to have grasped the meaning of existence so fully and to have been able to put it into words.

Swedenborg saw that the essence of God is what he calls 'Divine Love and Wisdom'. These combined endeavours in God's own nature are the cause of all creation. Love, which is God's purpose and intent as well as His feeling for all others, is present everywhere in creation. We can see love in the harmony of the universe, in its mechanics and laws, and in the forms of everything that has been created, especially in their use to others and their place in the whole design. This Love is also close to home so far as we are concerned, at the centre of human life, our relationships, our sense of personal fulfillment, in being useful and in the way we can live for the sake of other people. Wisdom is really the way in which love acts for the best outcomes. Wisdom is when love thinks how to bring true life and deep happiness about. It is inseparable from Divine love, and in God, love and wisdom are completely one endeavour.

In this book these principles are shown to be at the heart of the creation and the universe. Abstract philosophy becomes warmer and more personal by seeing God's purposes at work. The wonderful interplay between the physical world and the eternal world is described. Our mind and spirit and body are all part of the process that begins as we receive life from God. Swedenborg offers us a picture of a God who is utterly loving, a God who is equally present with every person and who condemns no one. The teaching is completely universal in its scope and appeal.

*Divine Love and Wisdom* also explains how everything we see in the physical world is a mirror of what goes on in our inner world of thoughts and feelings, beliefs and intentions. This gives it an extra fascination.

## Content of Book and Reading Approach

The book is divided into five main parts under the following headings:

- ✧ God - The Creator
- ✧ The Means of Creation
- ✧ The Structure of Creation
- ✧ The Method of Creation
- ✧ The Goal of Creation

All through *Divine Love and Wisdom* Swedenborg makes the connection between creation as a whole and our own personal experience, with God's purpose and activity bringing both together. The following paragraphs (not pages) cover some of the main ideas:

- ✧ *Our life is what we love*
- ✧ *God, who is one, is the source of everything* 23-27
- ✧ *Divine love and wisdom is substance and form* 40-43
- ✧ *Divine love and wisdom, in the spiritual world, look like the sun* 83
- ✧ *The goal of creation*
- ✧ *Love and wisdom have many levels*

- ✧ *Spiritual light and warmth*
- ✧ *The Lord has always created the universe and everything in it* 282
- ✧ *All the Lord's creations are to be for some use* 327
- ✧ *Our receptivity is also twofold*
- ✧ *The interrelationship of the soul and the body* 362
- ✧ *What is happening at conception at the beginning of life* 432

## Relevance Today

We easily get confused when we think about God, the universe around us and our own part in everything. Each of us needs to have our own meaningful view of reality and bring that understanding into a coherent, holistic life-activity. In ***Divine Love and Wisdom*** Swedenborg helps us do that. Statements such as *While the created universe is not God, it is from God* (paragraph 59) and *In every seed . . . there is an image of something infinite and eternal, an inherent effort to multiply and bear fruit without limit, to eternity* (paragraph 60) are valuable foundation principles on which to build the mental structure for spiritual living.

## Invitation

If you are keen to have a clearer idea of God and the physical universe which God has created then you will certainly appreciate reading ***Divine Love and Wisdom*** . Even though it seems to focus primarily on God, it continually points to the usefulness of everything that has been created, including of course, ourselves. That message translates into some very practical approaches in living an everyday life which is in keeping with the Divine life.

## Quotations

### ***Creation's Purpose***

The grand purpose of creation is an eternal union between God and the universe. This does not happen unless there are beings in whom His divinity can be at home, so to speak, and in which God can come and dwell. For these beings to be God's dwelling place or home they must be receptive of His love and wisdom and be that by their own accord. They must be beings who with apparent autonomy will raise themselves towards the Creator and unite themselves with Him. Without this reciprocity, there can be no union.

### ***The Spiritual Realm***

The whole spiritual world is just like the whole physical world, the only difference being that things there are not static and stable the way they are in the physical world. This is because there is nothing of nature there, and everything is spiritual.

## Availability of the Book

Paperback - translation only

Deluxe\* paperback

Deluxe\* hardback

\*Deluxe versions include an introduction to key ideas, study notes and index

## **Brochures in this Series:**

INTRODUCING SWEDENBORG'S

**Divine Love and Wisdom**

**Divine Providence**

**Four Doctrines**

**Heaven and Hell**

**Marriage Love**

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