

The Fundamental Love - Married Love

By Rev. Erik Buss
August 19, 2018
(sermon summary)

The New Church has always had a high value for marriage. It is the “fundamental love of all celestial, spiritual, and consequently natural loves.” (ML 65) How is this so? Many things that we love seem to have nothing to do with marriage or married love. Firstly, let’s note that the Lord is not saying that hellish loves and desires arise from married love. Married love is the fundamental heavenly love and all good loves come from it.

Married love is “celestial, spiritual, holy, pure and clean,” because it descends from the marriage of goodness and truth, and because it corresponds to the marriage of the Lord and the church (ML 64). These connections are what make it holy (Ibid). We may laugh that the answer to everything is “good and truth” and yet they are the building blocks of reality. The goal of creation is to bring them together, and when they come together, good things happen. Heat and light in balance create growth. In winter, we have light without enough heat, and in deserts, we have too much heat. “When love is added to wisdom or united with it, then love becomes loving. And when wisdom conversely is added to love and united with it, then wisdom becomes wise.” (ML 65)

We read that “True married love is nothing but a union of love and wisdom.” (ML 65) We think of it as the love between two married people but at its core, it is deeper than that. If we are trying to marry goodness and truth within ourselves, the Lord can offer a marriage between two people that also expresses the marriage of goodness and truth. Differences between men and women are fundamental to what makes marriage special. Men are an embodiment of a love for growing wise. Women are an embodiment of a love of that wisdom, which means a love of taking that wisdom and putting it to use (ML 66, 88).

The Lord created everyone to go to heaven. He wants to love us and be joined to us. In the Word, both Scripture and the Heavenly Doctrines, this joining is called a marriage. So, there are many marriages that come together in a marriage between two people: 1) The Lord’s overarching purpose is to be joined or married to the church. 2) He does this when people marry goodness and truth in their hearts. 3) When people marry, they join goodness and truth between the couple. That marriage then can provide offspring who support the Lord’s purpose of more people whom He can love and be joined to, and the cycle starts over again. Marriage, then, is so fundamental to society and the Lord’s purposes because it is an embodiment of all the various connections the Lord is trying to create in the world.

We are all in process. No one has a perfect marriage of goodness and truth in them, and no one has a perfect marriage. We are all in the process of becoming married, whether we’ve found our eternal partner or not. Let us all unite in the common awareness of our own imperfection, and our need to turn to the Lord so that He can guide us to marry goodness and truth in us, which is the essential marriage. And let us believe that if we are doing that, the Lord is guiding us toward that inner marriage and toward that eternal partner He has in view for us.

Lessons: Genesis 29, *Married Love* 64-65