

Conscience is a Spiritual Organ

by Edward F. Sylvia, M.T.S.



One of the reasons that the Lord God opened the interior powers of perception of Emanuel Swedenborg's mind so that he could observe the phenomena of the non-physical spiritual world was because he was a highly qualified scientist.

The new heavenly revelations that Swedenborg received and communicated to the world from this augmented cognition were more than theological. Swedenborg always communicated his unique discoveries in religious doctrine from a rational and scientific perspective.

His descriptions of how an infinite God acts in the finite world through influx, discrete degrees and correspondence are actually scientific models, which address causal process originating out of a pre-geometric realm. Swedenborg does this so that we can have a more rational, lawful and "visceral" grasp of profound theological topics. Some people refer to this approach as Theistic Science.

Most spiritually minded people would agree that following God's tenets (like loving the neighbor) has a real effect on a person's conscience. Most people also have a vague idea of conscience as a

mental pattern, leaning or conception that is housed in the memory. Swedenborg however, insisted that conscience was an actual spiritual organ, which is formed over time from living a spiritual and unselfish life.

All the organs in the human body represent the scope and boundaries of specific organic functions. Without these vital organic structures, brain signals would not be able to determine their forces into coherent action and thus diffuse into thin air. So our vital organs serve as recipient forms to hold the brain's influences.

According to Swedenborg, conscience is a recipient form and organic vessel for holding God's guiding influence. As such, conscience determines the quality of all the organic forms and functions of one's spiritual anatomy (embodied spiritual life as non-physical bio-complexity). Conscience takes on a real organic form because it is a living function and allows moral force to be determined into some coherent and living activity. It is a real object and subject of God's goodness. Without this organ, God's teachings and helpful influence have nowhere to determine or focus their powers and therefore they diffuse into thin air (kind of like information going into one ear and out the other).

Swedenborg's vast writings make it possible to follow the process of spiritual salvation in as much scientifically-expressed language as we are able to handle. The descent of the Holy City, The New Jerusalem, symbolizes a new worldview that will be grand enough to unify science and theology.

That is how the Lord God intends to change heaven and earth, and make all things new! It is happening at this very moment!

Edward F. Sylvia, M.T.S. is the author of *Sermon From the Compost Pile: Seven Steps Toward Creating An Inner Garden*. His newest book, *Proving God*, fulfills a continuing vision that God's fingerprints of love can be found everywhere in the manifest universe. He also lectures and presents workshops on a variety of subjects, always making connections between the topics of today and timeless spiritual insights. ©2010 Edward F. Sylvia, M.T.S. Staircase Press. For more information, visit <http://www.staircasepress.com>.

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