



What is the Church?

The Church is the Lord's heaven on earth,
and the Lord is the All in all within the Church, just as He is in heaven,
and dwells with people there in what is His own (*Arcana Coelestia* 10151:3).

The primary principle of the church is, to acknowledge God,
to believe in God, and to love Him (*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 281).

A right idea of God in the church is like the sanctuary and altar in a temple...
For on a right idea of God the whole body of theology hangs, like a chain on its first link.
(see *True Christian Religion* 163)

All are initiated into the church by knowing evil and not doing it,
because it is against God (*Charity* 27).

The Lord's Church is with all in the whole world who live in good
according to their religious system (*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 246).

That there may be a church, there must be doctrine from the Word,
since without doctrine the Word is not understood. Doctrine alone, however,
does not constitute the church with a person, but a life according to it.
(*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 243)

Whatever the quality of a person's understanding of the Word is, so is the quality
of the Church in him and the quality of his worship (*Arcana Coelestia* 10707).

When a person is becoming the Church, the first thing is his need to know
and understand what the truth of faith is. The second is his determination to will and
do it. And the third comes when he has an affection for it for then charity or mutual
love has arrived in him (see *Arcana Coelestia* 3876).