



The Glendale New Church
845 Congress Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 513-772-1478

The Precursor

January 2020

Our Mission:

The Glendale New Church connects heaven to earth by worshiping the Lord God Jesus Christ; discovering eternal truths in His Word; promoting spiritual awareness; and fostering community

Announcements

Society Meeting

Sunday, January 12
Worship will include
Holy Supper
A Luncheon will
follow
Society Meeting will
begin by 1 PM

All the members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend this important discussion about the past year and our future. Your wisdom is needed!

FROM THE WORD

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "All of you listen," he said, "and try to understand. It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart." Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used. "Don't you understand either?" he asked. "Can't you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? Food doesn't go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer." And then he added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, adultery, murder, theft, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you." Mark 7:14-23

The Lord directed His teaching to the internal, spiritual self, as we know from His precepts and from His abrogation of rituals which served a useful purpose only in the case of natural men. Thus His precepts concerning washing, that it is a purification of the inner self (Mark 7:14-23); concerning adultery, that it is a lust of the will (Matthew 5:28); concerning the divorcing of wives, that it is not lawful, and concerning polygamy, that it is not in accord with Divine law (Matthew 19:3-9). The Lord taught these and many other precepts having to do with the internal and spiritual self, because He alone opens the inner elements of human minds and makes them spiritual, and implants them then in the natural elements so that they, too, take on a spiritual essence. This also is what happens if people go to the Lord and live according to His commandments. His commandments in sum are to believe in Him and refrain from evils because they are of the devil and from the devil; also to do good things because they are of the Lord and from the Lord; and to do both the one and the other as though on one's own and at the same believe they are done through one by the Lord. As to why the Lord alone opens the internal, spiritual self and

implants this in the external, natural self, the essential reason is that every person thinks and acts on the natural plane, and it is impossible for him therefore to grasp anything spiritual and receive it into his natural self except in consequence of God's having assumed a natural humanity and made it also Divine. Married Love §340

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus taught many rules. They all are in the pattern: "If you love me...." Behavior is to be produced by a heartfelt desire to do the neighbor good. Adherence to rules is to be a model for others to see and so adopt for themselves. This process of seeing love modeled, and seeing the results, such as peace, security, wellbeing, joy, creates a connection between people. One's heart is shown to another, and the other meets them on the ground of love. This is the secure attachment that Jesus is modeling for all of us to see and adopt on our own.

Rules regulating behavior, and punishments for disobedience, are necessary for the developing mind and spirit. The rules "enshrine our spiritual needs" (Vickers, p. 105). Then, when our minds and spirits have developed the ability to own our choices, the rules no longer help. In fact, rules become weapons of those who lust for power to oppress their fellow tribespeople. It is this illegitimate abuse of rules that Jesus is calling out. And many people, whose minds are being opened by the very presence of the divine among them through Jesus Christ, could see and understand.

The challenge for us today is to discern the appropriate creation and application of rules manifest spiritual goodness. As an individual, I can disobey many rules without attracting much attention, and I will choose the life of hell. Like: cheating on expense reports; lying to look good; gossiping; making sins light by excusing them. Or I can subscribe to specific

behaviors to manifest the goodness of my spirit that run counter to prevailing culture. Like: Refusing premarital sexual contact; obeying the speed limit; acknowledging my privilege.

And the challenge is compounded when we gather into groups and organize ourselves around obedience to a set of rules. We begin talking about what good is manifested by the rules that hold us together, that institute our organization. I believe the confusion and turmoil we currently experience is a sign of spiritual development. Conflicts like: under what conditions do we use tax money to help people? Do we forcibly take from some to give others enough? We are arguing about restricting bathrooms to one gender (or is it sex?). As we engage in conversation about how our rules embody spiritual goodness, we connect in heartfelt desire to do each other good. And another miracle occurs: the rules disappear and a spiritual connection, a safe attachment, is established.

Imagine what Jesus was confronting. Imagine his Apostles being called to reject most of their cultural heritage. They had been propagandized from infancy that eating a certain way led to blessing and that breaking that rule would destroy their – and their tribe's – standing with God. Well, it does not take us much effort these days to imagine that dilemma.

As Jesus, and many wise people in the last two thousand years, have pointed out, we will not find resolution is devising and enforcing some new rules. Peace and joy can not be forced upon people since the resurrection and the creation of a divine secure attachment with all human beings. It is our opportunity to let go of our automatic reliance upon rules, as uncomfortable as that is. Our times demand vulnerability as we open our hearts to our neighbors with the divinely inspired hope that we will not be harmed. This trust in the Lord is the ultimate secure connection to our God, Jesus Christ.

* *Person To Person: The Gospel of Mark*, Paul V, Vickers. Swedenborg Foundation, West Chester, PA 1998

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Glendale New Church

Jan 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 9:30am - Yoga	2 6pm - Yoga	3	4 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
5 4pm - Yoga	6	7	8 9:30am - Yoga	9 6pm - Yoga	10 6:30pm - Trillium Meet &	11 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
12 11am - Worship & Holy 12pm - Luncheon 12:30pm - Society Meeting 4pm - Yoga	13	14	15 9:30am - Yoga	16 6pm - Yoga	17	18 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
19 4pm - Yoga	20	21	22 9:30am - Yoga	23 6pm - Yoga	24	25 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
26 2pm - John Denver Sing 3:30pm - Dream Dialogue 4pm - Yoga	27	28	29 9:30am - Yoga	30 6pm - Yoga	31	1

Glendale New Church

Feb 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 11 am - IANDS Gathering 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
2 3:30pm - Dream Dialogue 4pm - Yoga	3	4	5 9:30am - Yoga	6 6pm - Yoga	7	8 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
9 11 am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon 3:30pm - Dream Dialogue 4pm - Yoga	10	11	12 9:30am - Yoga	13 6pm - Yoga	14	15 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
16 3:30pm - Dream Dialogue 4pm - Yoga	17	18	19 9:30am - Yoga	20 6pm - Yoga	21	22 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
23 2pm - John Denver Sing 3:30pm - Dream Dialogue 4pm - Yoga	24	25	26 9:30am - Yoga	27 6pm - Yoga	28	29 5:30pm - Pastor Don's

Schedule

January 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
1/5	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
1/12	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch & Meeting 12:00
1/19	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
1/26	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

February 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
2/2	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
2/9	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am – Lunch 12:00
2/16	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
2/23	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

Please join us for worship!

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