

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

The reason why the Lord told the disciples to baptise into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is, because there is in the Lord a trine, or trinity; for there is the Divine which is called the Father, the Divine Human which is called the Son, and the Divine Proceeding which is called the Holy Spirit. The Divine which is the Father and the Divine which is the Son is the originating Divine; and the Divine Proceeding which is the Holy Spirit is the operating Divine. There is no other Divine proceeding from the Lord than the Divine which is Himself.... That there is a trine in the Lord may be illustrated by comparison with an angel; he has a soul, and a body, and also a [sphere] proceeding; and that which proceeds from him is himself outside of him....

Doctrine of the Lord #46.2, .3

The Divine Trinity in one Person is to be understood as soul, body, and proceeding operation, which together constitute one essence, for the one is from the other, and therefore the one belongs to the other. In the same way there is a trinity in each person, which taken together constitutes one person, to wit, the soul, the body, and the operation that goes forth.

Nine Questions III #3

In the church, the Son of God is supposed to be the second Person of the Godhead, distinct from the Person of the Father, whence comes the belief about the Son of God born from eternity.... Be it known ... that there is no Son from eternity; but that the Lord is from eternity. When it is known what the Lord is, and what the Son, it will be possible, and not before, to think with understanding of the Triune God. It has been shown ... that the Law and the Prophets, that is, the whole Word of the Old Testament, is concerning the Lord, and therefore by the Son of God who was to come, nothing else can be meant than the Human which the Lord assumed in the world.

Doc. of Lord # 19: 1, 9

...The ideas of the angels about the Divine, the Trinity, and Proceeding, are quite different from the ideas of people of the church, for the reason ... that the ideas of thought of the angels are founded upon one, whereas the ideas of thought of people of the church are founded upon three. The angels think (and what they think they believe) that there is one God, and that He is the Lord; that His Human is the Divine Itself in a form; and that the holy proceeding from Him is the Holy Spirit; thus that there is a Trinity, but still it is One.

A notion of this is obtained from the idea that exists about the angels in heaven. An angel appears there in the human form, but still there are three things within that make a one. There is the internal which does not appear before the eyes; there is the external which does appear; and there is the sphere of life of his or her affections and thoughts, which pours out from him or her to a distance (refs.). These three make one angel. But the angels are finite and created, whereas the Lord is infinite and uncreated. And as no human, or even angel, can have any idea about the Infinite except from things finite, therefore such an example may be given in order to illustrate what the Trinity in One is; and that there is one God; and that He is the Lord, and no other.

Arcana Celestia #9303.4, 5

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SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
TRINITY SUNDAY: Triune God in the Divine Human

Trinity Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost, provides an excellent opportunity to review our understanding of the unity of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Swedenborg likened this unity to the unity of people and angels as having a body, soul and activity.

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...I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:1-8

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

John 16:5-15

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking ... said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders.... In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures.... Each ... had six wings and was covered with eyes all around.... Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory... to him who sits on the throne ..., the twenty-four elders fall down before him.... They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:1-2, 4, 6, 8-11