

II Shim Study Topic #5

5. Our family pledges to strive every day to advance the unification of the spirit world and the physical world as subject and object partners, by centering on true love.

The relationship between the spirit world and the physical world is like that between a person's mind and body. Just as a person acts according to plans first formed in his mind, events in the physical world are to a large extent the results of processes begun in the spirit world. This first pledge discussed the role of the spirit world in human life. Having been given dominion over the creation, human beings are the lord of both the spiritual and physical worlds. The human mind connects with the spirit world and the human body interacts with the physical world. In a real sense, our mind and body is the microcosm which controls the macrocosm—the spirit world and the physical world—through its resonance with them. The key, therefore, lies within ourselves. When we align ourselves properly, we can tap into the inexhaustible power of the spirit world to bring us prosperity and victory.

The Family Pledge describes the relationship between *the spirit world and the physical world as subject and object partners*. It does not say that the spirit world is the subject partner to ourselves. God created human beings with mind and body to rule over the spiritual and physical world. With the mind we can govern the spirit world, and with the body we can govern the physical world. Proper governance of the cosmos begins when we establish the correct subject-object relationship between our mind and body. Thus, True Father's motto as a young man was, "Before you dominate the world, first dominate yourself." Although countless spirits long to do good works on earth, they require a responsive mediator through whom to act. By establishing yourself as a center of harmony between God's Word and action, you can meet the needs of the spirit world and become the focus of its attention.

When God is the center of our daily focus, His spiritual guidance comes to us constantly. The key is to act upon the heavenly guidance we receive. Our prayers must be matched by our deeds. When we become trustworthy partners in this respect, we can become dynamic people who can bring success and victory to every endeavor. This fifth part of the Family Pledge calls us to *strive every day to advance the unification of the spirit world and the physical world*. The import of the word *advance* is that the unification of the two worlds develops through stages of resurrection in God's providence. As God's providence advances on earth, it brings forth parallel developments in heaven. For example, when the leaders of the living religions come together at large conferences on earth, they lay the foundation for similar breakthroughs in the unification among religious people in the spirit world. The Blessing of millions on

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earth has laid the foundation for dramatic change in the spiritual world. Our particular and limited missions in day-to-day life should be seen in context of these cosmic changes. Truly we are witnessing and participating in the dawning of God's Kingdom!

Uniting the spirit world and the physical world is like making alloy steel out of iron and carbon. Carbon by itself is soft and crumbly; iron by itself is weak and bends easily. But when the two elements are combined, the result is a strong, hard and durable steel. Spirits by themselves can do nothing. By ourselves, we are remain ordinary people with many limitations. But when we live to fulfill the will of God, determined to be the mediator linking the inspiration of the spirit world with practical action in the physical world, we become strong and full of energy. We become people of great fortune. Inspirations come daily and we flow with creativity. Whatever we put our hands to can yield many times the usual result.

There are three keys to mobilizing the spiritual world. First, in his mind and heart the person affirms his dedication to God and determination to do His will; thus the spirit world will be mobilized to give inspiration, guidance and spiritual help. Second, there is good unity between his mind and his body; hence he is able to act on inspiration. Third, based on the foundation the person has laid on earth, his actions will carry weight and be effective. For example, in accomplishing a mission we need prayers of determination and pledge to accomplish the will of God. Even if the goal is far beyond our practical means, the spiritual help will be mobilized in accordance with our faith and sincerity. Next we need a practical plan and appropriate actions to realize our goal. We need to be self-starters. No one can give moment by moment instructions or constantly check on us to see how much we invest ourselves. Thirdly, we should build a practical foundation by which we can accomplish God's will. Jacob is a good example. He knew he could not win over his hostile brother Esau empty-handed. He spent many years accumulating wealth to be an offering for the fulfillment of God's will, but never lost his spiritual focus or purpose.

Life is so short and there is so much to be accomplished for the Kingdom of God. We must strive every day, then the spiritual world will respond in kind. Our True Parents 50-state tour exemplifies the true meaning of striving every day to advance God's Kingdom. Let us use this precious opportunity of life in a healthy body to do the most possible to make impact for God's Kingdom on earth and for the billions of souls in the spiritual world.

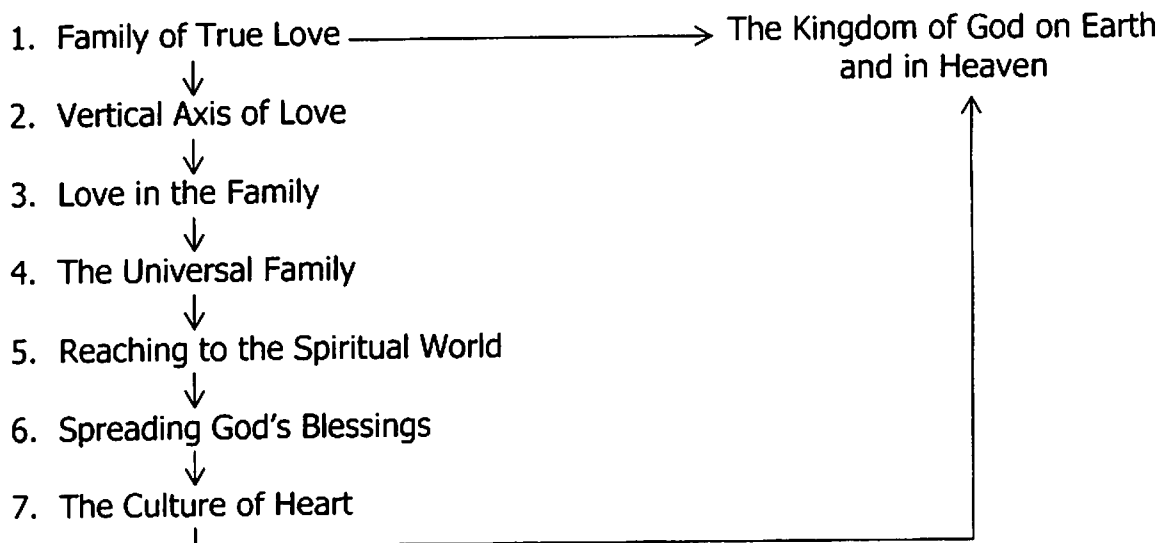
Reading Assignment: Exposition of the Divine Principle, *Resurrection* section 2.3 pages 144-151.(The Providence of Resurrection for Spirits); Matthew 6:23-24 and Matthew 6:12 (God Requires the Fulfillment of Brother-Sister Love)

II Shim Study Topic #6

6. Our family pledges to embody God and True Parents; we will perfect a family which moves heavenly fortune and conveys Heaven's blessing to our community, by centering on true love.

There is a logic and an order to the clauses of the Family Pledge (see illustration below). After the first pledge introduced the themes of true love, the Kingdom of God and our responsibility to establish it in our community, the second and third pledges focus on our individual family as the starting-point and basic building block of the Kingdom. They call us to realize God's design for true family, one which unites the vertical and horizontal dimensions of love. The fourth pledge moves to the universal family, the natural extension of the individual family as its true love multiplies horizontally to embrace all of humanity. With the fifth pledge, the scope of action unfolds still further to include the spiritual world. The sixth pledge reaches the highest point of all, partnership in the work of God through spreading His blessings. The seventh pledge concludes with a vision of God's Kingdom as it will be realized substantially—the culture of heart.

Living By True Family Values



What does it mean to become a family that “embodies God and True Parents” (*taesin kajong*)? The second pledge included becoming a family that represents (*taep'yo*) heaven and earth before God and a family that is central to (*chungshim*) heaven and earth. This represent a true family's vertical and horizontal position before God respectively. The “embodiment” describes the internal of unity in heart and zeal for God's will. Becoming a *taesin* family means that we should study the True Parents' way of life and make it our own: their

daily schedule, their life of prayer, their sacrificial spirit, and absolute determination. To inherit the True Parents tradition, we must put aside our former ways and habits, including the traditions of our own culture, wherever they fall short. Their way of self-denial and self-sacrifice certainly challenge the self-centered and indulgent individualism which characterizes the lifestyles of many Americans.

To move heavenly fortune is to move the heart of God and be in line with His divine power and blessing. God dwells with us and empowers us when we deny ourselves, sacrifice and work for the benefit of others. Though these efforts may go unnoticed, they serve as the foundation for God to work with us and bless us. Once we become families of great fortune, we should make every endeavor to share God's blessings with others. As we give, our blessings are multiplied in an ever more virtuous circle of give-and-receive action.

Of all the blessings we can share, the most precious are those which can restore and give new life to the family. Unique among these is the Holy Blessing officiated by the True Parents. Bestowing God's grace upon the family, the Blessing opens the door to every sort of blessing on earth and in heaven. Through its expansion the kingdom of God will finally be established on earth.

Ever since the tragic day when humanity squandered the promise of Eden to live in the pain and suffering of slavery to Satan, God's ultimate goal has been to bestow the Blessing. He has been working throughout human history for this one purpose. In this light, we can understand that it was for the sake of the Blessing that Jesus went to the cross. He gave up his body so that one day he could through returning resurrection, complete the unfinished work of salvation by instituting the Blessing. Countless believers were martyred, great men and women of faith suffered immensely through the age for the hope of the future resurrection that comes with the Blessing. Rev. Moon, too, suffered imprisonment and torture so that one day he could bring the Blessing to humanity. In this sense, the Blessing is more valuable than one's life. Its value is incomparably greater than that of the entire universe!

What sort of faith is required to receive this great gift of grace? Faith in True Parents; that they have authority to grant God's blessing and that such a blessing is worth receiving and keeping. The blessing is a free gift, though the recipients must be at the top of the growth stage. Today, the True Parents' victory has lifted up the entire world to that level, so members of all faiths, or even conscientious people can receive the Holy Blessing without special conditions. What a great day of hope as we can restore the universal human family by extending the blessing to all on behalf of God and True Parents!

Reading Assignment: Exposition of the Divine Principle, *Restoration* section 2.2.5 page 186, (The Ages Catagorized With Reference to Responsibility); Genesis 18:20-23 , Deuteronomy 9:9-19, and Luke 23:34 (Interceding On Behalf Of Those Who Have Wronged Us); God's Will and the World, *Total Indemnity*, page 593, bottom ¶

II Shim Study Topic #7

7. Our family pledges to perfect a world based on the culture of heart, which is rooted in the original lineage, by centering on true love.

The seventh pledge reveals the essence of the ideal world, the Kingdom of God on Earth. Poets and visionaries of every age have dreamed of a world where love rules triumphant, where people are no longer oppressed by laws and authorities which trample on love. That world is our destiny; it is the will of God. It will manifest on earth as true families increase and build political, economic, and educational structures reflecting divine love. As tribal messiahship expands in true families, and the realization of the spiritual dimension of human existence becomes apparent, the dominant force guiding all aspects of culture will be true love as nurtured in true families. Such a culture may be called *shimjong* culture or the culture of heart.

The dream of a culture of love arises from the original nature of human beings. God created us to value love above all else. However, true love can only be fulfilled in harmony with the purpose of life, and eternal partnership with God through realizing true family relationships. A true culture of heart could only be realized centering upon the ethic of sexual purity. The meaning of *rooted in the original lineage* refers to the Holy Blessing which is an extension of the True Parents' own family. The lineage of True Parents is established through the process of reversing and paying the total price of the human fall and fallen history. Because the human fall laid the seed of false love in the beginning, before the Kingdom of God can be realized as the culture of heart, the false ideal of the fall of Adam and Eve must be manifested on the world-wide level and rejected. The first condition in creating the culture of heart is accepting the root of the new lineage which is True Parents and receiving the Holy Blessing.

Today's American culture exalts love—of a sort—and advertises romantic dreams of fulfillment through love. But rarely have people been so confused and misinformed about love. The mass media celebrate free sex and casual affairs as the normal way of life. Billions of dollars in profits are made by unscrupulous salesmen and their corporate sponsors who use sexual fantasies to sell every sort of product, from soft drinks to automobiles. The loose sexual mores foisted upon the public by this contemporary culture destroy the family and damage people's ability to love in the truest sense.

The sexual revolution launched in the 50's and 60's does not represent a simple decline in moral standards. It is a rejection of chastity and such virtues as "old fashioned and restrictive". The idea behind this is based on a materialist view of life, sharing the same utopian and anti-religious character as communism. It promotes a vision that the world of human fulfillment will be realized once people have broken free of the fetters of religion and morality. Like communism, the sexual revolution denies spiritual values, therefore love has no meaning other than what is physically expressed in the act of sex. Young people adopting this view and becoming sexually active before marriage do not feel they do anything wrong. They continue from partner to partner in search of "good sex" which they think will make them happy and make their lives worthwhile. Sex becomes the therapy for all their troubles. They believe they are on the correct path to

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finding true love, though their thought and practice is incredibly self-centered and destructive. As the Divine Principle states:

The era when the paths of these good and evil sovereignties intersect is the Last Days. This is also the time when Adam and Eve's fall from the top of the growth stage will be restored through indemnity. All people in this era will suffer through great ideological confusion, much as the first human ancestors at the point of their temptation were utterly confused as to whom they should obey and what should guide their actions.

Eschatology 4.2

To overcome the attraction of the sexual revolution and follow the path to true fulfillment, young people today must find answers to the fundamental questions about love. What is true love? What is the role of love in realizing the purpose of life? Why is the family important for cultivating true love? How can I expand my capacity to give and receive love in order to prepare for a successful marriage? Why should sexual love be safeguarded for only one partner? How can sexual love be the doorway to the most sublime, true love? We should point the way to a higher vision of human fulfillment which can eclipse the shallow promises of sexual liberation. When true love is practiced by individuals and families, a new culture will emerge: the culture of heart.

What is true love? Most essentially, true love is living for the sake of others, taking after the nature of divine love which is to give unconditionally. God is both the Source and Standard of true love. True love does not seek to use others for one's own pleasure, but gives service and benefit to others for their own sakes, receiving joy when they respond in kind. True love is pure with no hint of self-seeking. This must be the quality of our sexual love; it must express true love. The true act of love begins in the soul and then it is expressed in the union of the flesh. The sexual revolution knows nothing of true love. Therefore it can make the mistake of equating love with having sex.

Conjugal love between a husband and wife is meant to be a moment of cosmic oneness. When the absolute love of God infuses the conjugal union, True Father calls this "absolute sex". Absolute sex is faithful, pure and true. The love of God, who is the Source of love, descends vertically and meets the horizontal love of between husband and wife. God, whose nature is the unity of dual characteristics, beholds His complete image when husband and wife become one in love. At that moment, God is stimulated to feel incredible joy and the universe dances in oneness. Out of that moment can emerge a new life, as the husband and wife procreate a new image of themselves and a new image of God. They participate in the wondrous mystery of God's creation. This fulfills the purpose for which God created human beings.

To achieve the purpose of life in establishing a true family, we must cultivate our character. Conjugal love between a husband and wife requires a foundation of children's love and fraternal love. For this reason, it is recommended that young people prepare for the Holy Blessing by receiving spiritual training through church activities. Through serving others we can learn the way of filial piety, patriotism and saintliness. These are invaluable assets in life. To become a professional, as for example a doctor or computer programmer, one must learn his trade through years of rigorous study and practice. How much more should we prepare for marriage, the most sacred and precious relationship that is even an eternal one! The sexual revolution denies the value

of family, in fact, free sex has ravaged the family. The view is that there is nothing to be learned about sex that biological instinct doesn't teach, except perhaps preventing disease. In our society, there are no schools to teach how to become a true person, no classes on true love and marriage in the schools, and the two-parent family is not a part of the life of nearly 50% of American youth, according to the year 2000 census.

True love means living for the sake of others. First we need to practice true love in our own family and then teach by example and explanation to others. Just telling young people to say "No" to premarital sex is not enough. Nature has given them passions and the exciting prospect of new-found love. The false culture of free sex in America promotes the self-destruction of promiscuity; luring many to lives of misery, enslaved to their own addiction. Young people need a vision of the good family to which they can aspire, to make the pain of self-restraint seem while. They need examples and friends to walk the path of true life and love together in preparation for marriage. They need compatriots in the struggle to transform our culture which is hostile to families to one that rewards fidelity, sexual purity and all true family values. The family pledge can serve as a daily compass to show the way, but who can serve as guides and friends along the way?

The Bible describes the qualification to enter the New Jerusalem with the following words:

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who practices falsehood.
Revelation 22: 14-15

There will be a division among humanity—those that keep purity and follow a true love lifestyle and those that reject God's commandment. Let us cling to the Tree of Life—the true lineage of the True Parents—and daily wash our robes through repentance and acts of righteousness.

Reading Assignment: Exposition of the Divine Principle, *Eschatology* section 4.2, page 100, ("These two sovereignties with contrary purposes..." etc. until yellow section ends); I Corinthians 13, (What is the nature of true love?)

II Shim Study Topic #8

- 7. Our Family Pledges, as we enter the Completed Testament Age, to achieve the ideal oneness of God and humankind in love through absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience, thereby perfecting the realm of liberation of the Kingdom of God on Earth and in Heaven by centering on true love.**

The eighth and final point of the Family Pledge returns to the theme of the opening determination to realize “the original ideal of creation”. This final point was added after the publication of the first seven points of the Pledge and it is unique in its discussion of the **process** to realize the ideal. The seventh point of the pledge mentions the way of fulfilling the pledge in essence, “through living for the sake of others”. In this final point of the pledge it is spelled out more specifically.

The way to the fulfillment of God’s Kingdom on earth is opened through the advent of the Completed Testament Age. This is a very special providential age of salvation beyond the age of restoration of the human fall. In this age our responsibility is greater; salvation is carried out not by observance of the law, nor by grace through faith, but salvation is by attendance. Salvation is no longer symbolic of becoming sons and daughters of God, but son and daughter responsibilities are a daily reality—no longer an individual matter, but a dynamic of relationships within a family. Family salvation directly addresses the lost life of Adam and Eve together with God had they not fallen. Attendance implies the give-and-receive dynamic of the parent and child relationship. This is the great privilege that is ours through the True Parents, inherit God’s character, direct love, and right of dominion through a process of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience.

Absolute faith is the reversal of the fundamental attitude of the fall. Adam and Eve broke the trust relationship with God; breaking off the give-and-take action that should allow them to mature their character. When God trusted them with freedom, the response should have been a complimentary one that reflected the heart investment of God. Namely, they should have trusted in God’s way and believe in Him as he had believed in them—absolutely. Instead, Eve was influenced by the archangel’s attitude to doubt God’s love and investment in them. Was he withholding some great benefit by forbidding them to eat the fruit? When we believe in God’s way and those God puts in a position to advise us of His way, we put ourselves in a position to be trustworthy before God also. This attitude of absolute faith is an important condition to restoring trust that liberates God to bless us and give us his assistance. Jesus said to those he healed that their faith was essential to God’s power working in their restoration.

Absolute love is kept as we make our relationship to God a first priority in our lives, especially in our families. God gives unconditionally, completely and without demanding a return. But, if there is no return, the dynamic bringing God's love and spiritual fulfillment to us is broken. To be living as real sons and daughters, our emotional force, our desire should be connected to God and His situation as our heavenly Parent. Jesus taught, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness". If our love is absolute and unchanging for God's will and His liberation, it will point us like a true compass in life to achieving what is truly worthwhile. We will be in a position to inherit everything from God. This is why Jesus questioned Peter, "Do you love me?". Jesus used the term *αγαπη* (agape) or sacrificial love to challenge Peter to be absolute in his dedication. This is because he wanted Peter not just to observe and applaud Jesus, but to become another Jesus and inherit the full blessing of God.

What is the result of practicing absolute obedience? Philippians 2:8-9 says of Jesus "...he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him ..." Obedience leads to exaltation. This means God could put him in a very high position of trust and responsibility, in a position representing His own divine authority. When we obey absolutely, God can trust us and will bless us to lead others. There is a great difference in self-promotion, which is foolish, and the promotion God gives to one He trusts. Obedience in response to God's word brings joy to our original minds and a lasting joy through closer relationships and abundant blessings which result through the give-and-receive connection established with God. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken unto you that your joy might be full." John 15:10-12 Most importantly, obedience leads to perfection, which is the oneness of God and humankind in love.

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being **made perfect**, he became the author of eternal salvation to all that obey him." [12:23] "But ye are come unto Mt. Zion, ...to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men **made perfect**." Hebrews 5:7-9; 12:23

God's heart can truly be liberated only when true family life through parent and child relationships is restored. This is the realm of perfection which is the promise of the Completed Testament Age. Attendance to God has been the hallmark and great achievement of the True Family. With this pledge we determine to stand with the True Family and our own family members in honoring this true tradition.

Reading Assignment: Exposition of the Divine Principle, *The Providence to Lay the Foundation for Restoration* section 3.4, page 222, (Some Lessons Learned From Abraham's Course); Luke 2 :50-51; Colossians 3:20; John 14:31; Ephesians 6:1