

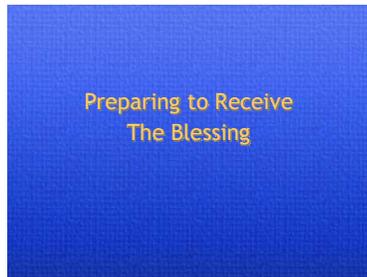
Preparing to Receive the Blessing - Part 1

Dr. David Hanna

Thank you for your presence here, and thank you for your co-operation too! By you actively listening and following along hopefully God can share something with us today.

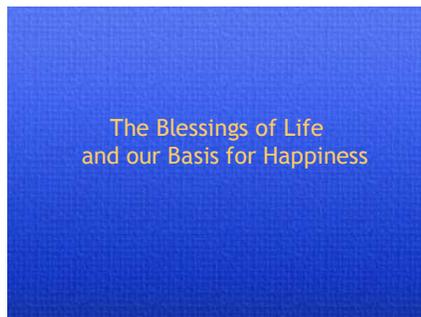
These presentations are for 1st Generation people who are preparing to 'meet our True Parents'. It is for people who have encountered True Parents for the first time and are anxious to leave behind the past and make a really new beginning through the amazing and extraordinary benefits of the Blessing.

So, this workshop is to prepare for that and understand that in a short-hand way through 3 lectures. There will be huge areas which we will not talk about, but if we take True Parents' desire seriously and God's intention seriously, we will be doing this for millions of people. So we hope that all Unificationists will get engaged with this process, and find this material helpful to better help others in and through this process. Susan and I hope this will bring something fresh to this effort.



Slide 1

We're talking about Preparing to receive the Blessing. This is of course related to the 3 Blessings. We can assume that everybody listening has a good foundation in understanding the Divine Principle. You need to have had at least a year of involvement in our Movement; attending various devotional activities, Sunday Service and various workshops and hopefully service programs. We could well do with a week-long seminar to go over that Divine Principle background again, but now we're going to look at it with the Blessing in mind, and perhaps therefore it will be a little different than when you studied it before.



Slide 2

These are Blessings for Life, and our basis for happiness. Blessings are given from God in his wisdom for our benefit. The word 'Blessing' is used throughout the world's religions denoting that which comes freely to us out of love from our Heavenly Father; our creator, our sustainer. We all have the Blessing of life. There's nothing we ourselves did to be here; it came to us. And we have to understand it and make the most of it.

The Three Great Blessings

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis 1: 28

Slide 3

These Blessings are encapsulated in Genesis 1.28, where it says: Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over every living thing.

The Three Great Blessings

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth'"

Genesis 9:1

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

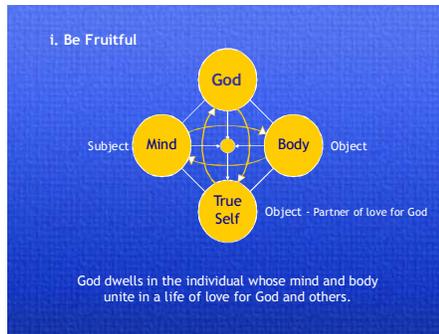
Genesis 12:2-4

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The same kind of words were given to Noah when – in order to purify humankind - God was sacrificing a great deal so there could be a new beginning. This word purification will come up a lot. It's very much the process that religion is involved in. To purify means to separate out the mixture of good and evil that is in every fallen person. The process of exalting and lifting up the goodness in us and removing the evil is what we have to go through continuously; it's called 'religious life', right? We have to go through this by degrees, by steps.

God Blessed Noah and his sons and said to them in Genesis 12: 2-4, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." And it also comes in this next passage in words to Abraham, ***"And I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and though shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, an curse them that curseth thee, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."***

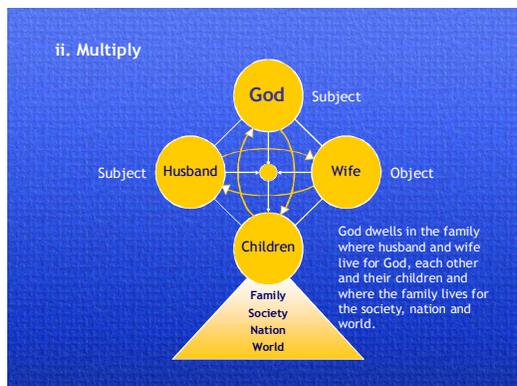
Isn't it interesting that the Blessing comes through people. God is expecting all families of the earth to be Blessed through this new start. This person (Noah) who is the head of a Three Generational Family (as we express it in Principled terms), could eventually successfully make the foundation on the Family Level to receive the Messiah, and became the Father of Faith in this way.



Slide 5

The 1st Blessing is to be fruitful, meaning that God dwells in the individual – where a person's mind and body is united in a life of love, so that the centre of that person's life is God, and that person can love others with God's love; can resonate with God's love. This is a person of integrity; a person without contradiction, a person who is in the image of God as an individual having the right dominion of mind directing the body, rather than the body demanding everything. Rather, we've settled for reverse priorities whereby instead of having our spirit 'subject' and our body 'object', and have our spirit elevate beyond ourselves and think of God and embrace and love people with that mind of true humanity, and then have our body obey and do everything that we want to do in the service of that ideal, it's very easy for our body to start demanding what you want and how you are treated and how you place your priorities in life. This is of course the central disturbance that came about through the Fall of Man; the loss of that unity and the loss of that easy relationship.

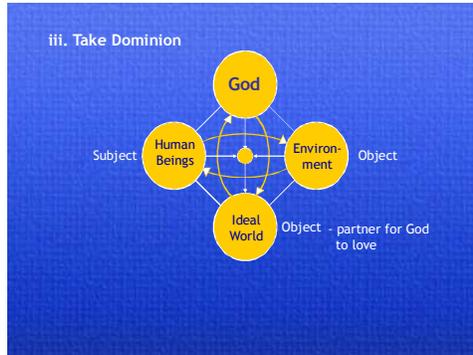
The battle is on the mind. We say body, because it's the physical mind which takes care of the body's needs and serves it, but it shouldn't be dominated by it. That's why certain religion traditions are very helpful to solve this problem and help us to win the battle of the mind. e.g. Buddhism...in the example that we are getting from our International President Hyung Jin Nim's Buddhist training. I recommend that to you and also the writings of Eckhart Tolle; all to do with winning the battle in the mind.



Slide 6

The second Blessing is 'to Multiply' – not just mechanically; it's much more than that of course. It means to multiply as God intended; to partake in this process of creation – to become a parent as God is a parent to us. It's no ordinary Blessing. It's the development of the Heart, so that even if someone doesn't have partner or an opportunity to have children themselves, but still this development of heart and the ability to deeply relate with other people centring on true love; this is an important part of our own development. If it comes on

the basis of our individual maturity we can go then to spread our love more widely to be a true brother or a true sister, a true husband or wife, and then a true parent. So, God dwells in the family where husband and wife live for God, each other and their children and where the family lives for the society, nation and world. It's a beautiful expansion of the family ideal.



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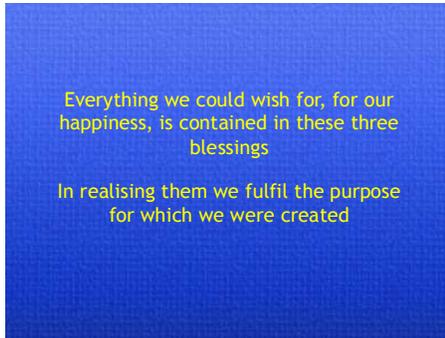
These steps don't just happen necessarily in this order, e.g. you develop your parental heart as a child. For example, if you are an elder brother or sister and you have younger siblings, it's all preparation and training for making you a better husband or wife or parent in the future. And, when you're young you're also learning to take care of things and how to develop your capacity – your own genius, to be able to form a career for yourself which will show that you have dominion over some aspect of the creation that is unique to you.

When human beings and the environment are in the proper relationship centering upon God, and God's original purpose for creating, then that world becomes an object partner to God himself. That ideal world becomes the object partner which God can love like the mirror for God where He sees himself 'reflected and developed'. He sees something more amazing coming from the created object and generating more energy and more love. We are destined to become that object collectively/together. Things that God never imagined will come in the ideal world.

- **Be fruitful**
To grow to maturity as an individual
- **Multiply**
Marry, have children and raise a loving family
- **Take dominion over the creation**
Exercise a loving stewardship over the material world

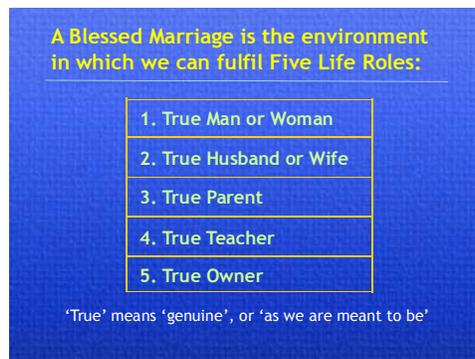
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To summarise...
To accomplish all this we need loving, ethical people.



Slide 9

Everything we need is within these 3 Blessings...not a restriction, but a liberation to fulfill our purpose, and be happy. In realizing them we are becoming happy, because it's natural; in tune with our Creator. Everything will slot into place and we will be able to blossom.



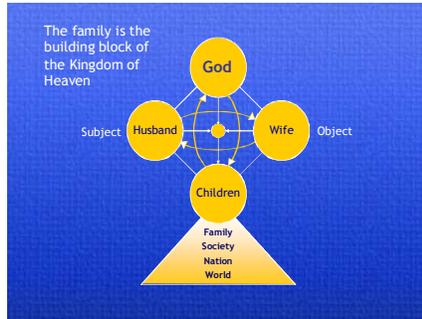
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A Blessed Marriage is our opportunity to develop our ability to fulfill our roles as a human being. First becoming a True Man or Woman, then a True Husband or Wife, Thirdly a True Parent, then – on that basis - become a True Teacher and then a True Owner. So we are co-creating ourselves together with God.

Out of our integrity we will teach and pass on to the future. What we learn in becoming a True Parent we will be able to pass on, and help others to become better than us hopefully! This is the passing on of the tradition of true love from generation to generation.

We have a big time constraint which we call 4 dimensions. The usual 3 dimensions in space and then we have 'time'. When you go to the spirit world all the ancestors – your parents and your grandparents will be there...very real...like our brothers and sisters. We will hold natural respect for those who came before us, no matter how long ago they lived.

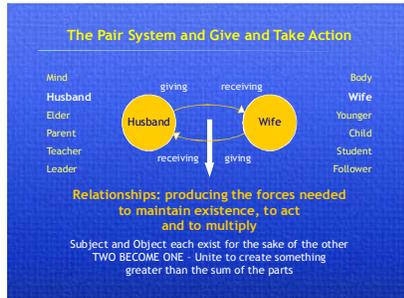
When we fulfill those life goals we will have an endless amount of things to talk about...for how long? For eternity! That is really going to happen and that is why True Parents have introduced the Ceremony for helping us to enter that final stage of our lives: The Seung Wha Ceremony or Blessing. We will need when we pass over. What shall we be doing in the eternal world? Continuing the development of the beauty and creativity of this world, and the whole cosmos. The eternal spiritual world is even more beautiful than the most beautiful things in this world!



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All of this needs the basis of the family. The Family is the building block of the Kingdom of Heaven. Because it is the fundamental ‘building block’, Satan tried to destroy it from the very beginning. There are signs of Satan’s effort to undermine it everywhere in history and in our present world.

Let’s look now at the basis for building the relationships within a family and human society.

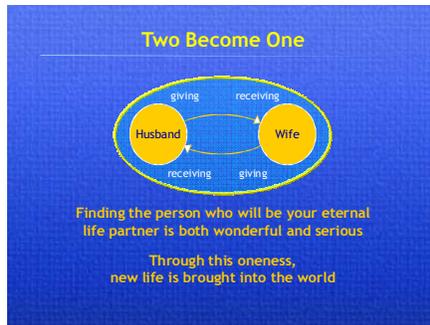


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A well functioning society depends on harmonious give and take action between different parts. God created all things within a ‘The Pair System’ where all relationships depend on good give and receive relationships in 4 dimensions. This is a dynamic give and take, and it produces forces (energy!) which enable us to maintain our existence, to ‘act’ – to get things done, and to pass on the good things to others, to ‘multiply’.

Subject and object exist for each other. This is the beginning of understanding about marriage as God intended it. Why are they created to have give and take action? So that those two can become one...so something of a higher order is created....greater than the sum of the 2 parts. This is how life continues to grow, becomes more complex in a biological sense. Science is only just discovering how this works. God is the creator of this wonderful and mysterious process and the impulse to grow and develop which is behind and within all the creation.

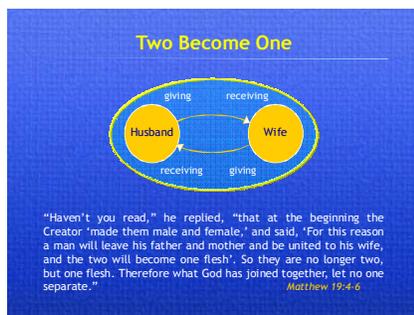
For things to grow and develop there must be input. The source of this energy is the ‘Hyung Sang’ of God...pre-energy, which causes everything to be able to exist. Give and Receive Action causes 2 to become 1!



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Finding the person who will be your life partner to create this is your very serious task isn't it?! This is actually a most amazing and wonderful process. Give and take makes life so exciting!

The human family is more complex than the animal world. It takes much longer to raise a child, involving so much investment of heart and care and giving. We are discovering God's parental heart through this gradual process; sharing in the creator's feelings.



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Jesus spoke about this when he said, when asked about divorce, ***“Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”***

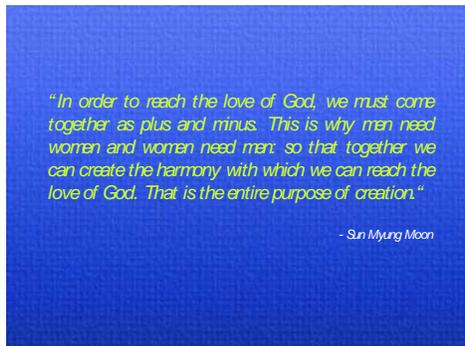
Marriage is the thing that will take you away from your beloved parents, to the next level of relationship experience, where two become one.

The Blessing is going to allow us to become one eternally. No one should take divorce as a simple thing: we know it's so serious. Most people in the world do not realize the very profound meaning of Marriage which is to create the basis for eternal love and happiness.

Our ideal, is to enable couples to stay together, and end the culture where divorce is no longer seen as a good option in life. The Blessing is for the purpose of ending the history of men and women misunderstanding each other, hurting each other, and multiplying the suffering started by the 'Fall of Man'.

Those who can see into the spirit world have said that they see a Blessed Couple as one being, not two separate people, but two almost blending into one. Of course the spirit world is a place of many dimensions, so you can be in one place and another at the same time, and in different beautiful formations of love, but in harmony and deep unity. True Love will allow us to have complete unity in a most extra-ordinary and beautiful way.

The Blessing is a very profound development in human history which is establishing the foundation upon which, not only a couple can become 'one', but all people can come to live in harmony, and dynamic oneness. This is the foundation to end conflict, suffering and war. So it is not an ordinary 'blessing' in any way, but the core expression of God's Will and desire to solve the problems and bring about the deepest transformation of human beings. How does Father Moon express this idea? Here's one quote:



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“In order to reach the love of God, we must come together as plus and minus. This is why men need women and women need men: so that together we can create the harmony with which we can reach the love of God. That is the entire purpose of creation.”

He's summarised it right there.

That's why this Blessing is so central to the realisation of God's Purpose – His Ideal and our happiness.



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The Family is the place where love, life and lineage – the things that God holds most dear, and hence that we too hold most dear – are to be realized. Love, Life and Lineage.

Which is the most important? Lineage

You don't hear much about it...what is it...? It's really important that we find out how to pass it on God's way of life, to multiply it correctly...to pass on God's love and life, we need God's Lineage. Lineage means what we inherit and what we pass on.

Our society is less concerned about 'lineage' (what we inherit and what we pass on) than it should be.



- Current society tends to ignore the elderly
- Individual's rights and personal happiness are emphasized
- If parents get divorced, children almost always suffer

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Our society is not concerned well with our elderly....we treat them like 19th Century people treated slaves...we put them out of sight, distance ourselves from, don't want to deal with them and tend to ignore them. In our current culture the individual's rights are championed, in an unbalanced way.

Another example of us not being aware of the importance of lineage is that when parents divorce it creates enormous pain for the children the impact of which is not considered enough.

What went wrong?

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So, what went wrong?



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The Three Blessings, are the way to inherit God's Love, Life and Lineage. But,....



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As the Bible states: ***“I set before you this day a blessing and a curse”***
(Deut 11:26)

Satan usurped God’s position, bringing a curse upon humanity, and we have become people of self-centred love, and through marriage those problems are multiplied in the give and take action between family members. We tend to be immature spiritually. Making love grow is not always our priority. Greed and self-interest create disharmony and we disregard the lineage... we engage in short term thinking. In effect Satan passed on his character and way of doing things through the lineage of Adam and Eve and their descendants through the Fall of Man.

If you are self centred, you don’t automatically overcome that by getting married. Even if you love someone, and feel uplifted in that romantic glow as a young couple, you will bring that into your relationship, until you can grow to maturity in heart. Sometimes people get married ‘just to have someone to love me.’ Of course we should be able to feel ‘I want somebody to love, as God loves me.’ That should be the basis of our marriage.

When we think only of enjoying our lives now, and having happiness ‘for myself’, we are neglecting to think of those who are coming after us; what we will be leaving behind for them far beyond material things (concern for the lineage).

Results of The Fall

“To state that the world is under satanic dominion is to suggest there are negative spiritual forces operating in our lives.”

“Satanic influences can affect a person only as long as he or she cooperates with them.”

“Sin may be thought of as any act or thought which violates God’s law and which inhibits negatively our own growth to perfection. Sin is thus never simply against God. It is also against ourselves, in that it violates our own deepest essence.”

(The Divine Principle Home Study Course, 2)

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The Results of the Fall

To say that we are living under ‘Satan’s Dominion’ is to suggest that there are very real negative spiritual forces which cause great trouble in our lives. Are you aware of these forces? They are very real negative forces that affect our lives and relationships. But they can only affect us as long as we have give and take with them - we need to co-operate with them for them to have power. They have to find a common base in us to work.

The third result is that we have sin.

Without those sins we would have a much better situation! They give us such a burden. Sin (which means going against God’s law in some way), inhibits our growth. **10.**

For example we want to do something, but we lack the confidence to do it. We are overwhelmed sometimes by negative thoughts or feelings. It is against myself too! To be free from this struggle is what we want! It violates our own deepest essence!

If we were wise we would be enthusiastic about purifying ourselves, and embrace this religious life wholeheartedly.

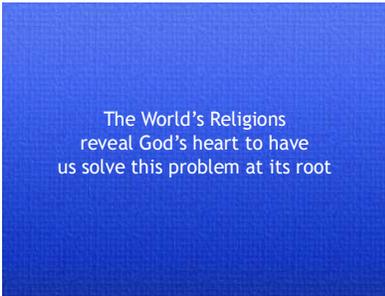
It means to work to remove the basis for the give and take action with the evil influences. This is very much our task. Our task except for removing the root of sin, for which God and True Parents are taking responsibility.

Only the Messiah can free us from our Original Sin. It's too close to us; it's running in our veins. We can't cut ourselves off from it, we really stand 'under Satan's accusation' because of that inherited problem of Original Sin. How to solve this is the big historical question.

So even though Jesus came to save people, and Christians enjoy enormous blessing from God, they can enjoy real spiritual salvation if they live a Christ-like life, but they cannot be free from Original Sin. So it means that even the most saintly person, when they have children, the Original Sin is passed down, and the children have to seek out their own salvation again because the problem of Original Sin has not been solved.

This problem is not solved until God and True Parents gain the victory and have the authority to help us cut off from the evil. You can learn about this extraordinary victory when you study in detail the 8 vertical and horizontal stages that True Parents went through to establish this foundation of victory over Satan.

This is passed down to us through the Blessing! This is what True Parents have come to bring us! The way to cut off Original Sin for us and all humankind has been opened by this historic victory. This was not easily arrived at! The fact that this can come to us, isn't that the most extra-ordinary Blessing? It makes me tremble to think about it.



The World's Religions
reveal God's heart to have
us solve this problem at its root

Slide 22

The religions of the world have been tackling the problem of the Fall at its roots. I'm going to share what the world's religions have been saying to give you a sense that this is not just what we are saying, but what God has been doing through the history of religion and through religious traditions, to tackle the problem of impure love.



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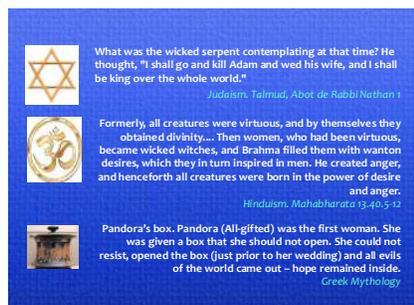
Jainism: *It is better to die than to indulge in partaking of forbidden lustful pleasure. Uttarasutasram 22.42*

Hinduism: *The man who goes to the wife of another ...digs up the very roots of life. Dhammapada 18.247*

Islam: *Do not come near adultery: for it is a shameful deed and evil, opening the road to other evils. Qur'an 17.32*

Christianity: *Flee from sexual immorality. ... he who sins sexually sins against his own body. I Corinthians 6.18*

That means that the essence of God in you is being violated.



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Judaism: *What was the wicked serpent contemplating at that time? He thought, "I shall go and kill Adam and wed his wife, and I shall be king over the whole world." Judaism. Talmud, Abot de Rabbi Nathan 1*

There's a good explanation of the Fall of Man 'in a nutshell' isn't it; from the Rabbis?

Hinduism: *Formerly, all creatures were virtuous, and by themselves they obtained divinity.... Then women, who had been virtuous, became wicked witches, and Brahma filled them with wanton desires, which they in turn inspired in men. He created anger, and henceforth all creatures were born in the power of desire and anger. Hinduism. Mahabharata 13.40.5-12*

Greek Mythology: *Pandora (meaning All-gifted) was the first woman. She was given a box that she should not open. She could not resist, opened the box (just prior to her wedding) and all evils of the world came out – hope remained inside. Pandora's box.*

The wonderful thing about the Divine Principle is that it reveals what actually happened and the results in us very clearly.



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The ‘Fall of Man’ reveals that we have inherited:
A contradictory nature
A tendency to indulge our physical desires in a self-centred way
A tendency to misuse nature and material things
And has landed us with huge
Ignorance of God and the reality of spiritual things

And so we are living in a materialistic world in all senses of the word; bound to the earth in our understanding which produces a great fear of death and the desire to hang on tightly to what we have here as though our ‘life depended on it’. When actually this is not what our life depends on at all. We need to be free of dependency on those things so that we can begin to really live, acknowledging that it is a gift from God.

So above all, the religious traditions are getting people prepared for eternal life, getting priorities right. That was in a time before there was a solution to the problem of Original Sin. Now we have the privilege to learn from these in order to prepare for the Blessing.



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Some people think of the story of Adam’s Family as a mythical story which has little relevance to us, but actually it unlocks the key to understanding the problems we face today.

“Adam-Eve problems” refers to engaging in impure love, mistreating the opposite sex with disrespect, various problems within the relationships between men and women.

“Cain-Abel problems” refers struggle between peers; struggles over money, power or position due to immaturity and insecurity.

“Self-things” refer to misusing public money, mistreating nature....lack of proper self care.

“Evil Spirit World- My weak self” is referring to the fact that we became like a servant of a servant, dominated by evil and unable to develop ourselves to our rightful dignified position and accomplishment.

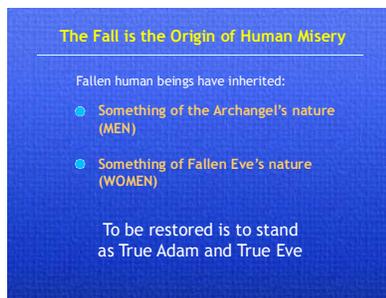
As St. Paul said, ***“Do you not know that you are the judge the angels?”*** But we became unable to follow our conscience and we listen to and believe the evil talk (those little whisperings in our mind such as ‘You are not good enough to talk that that important person’, ‘You’re a failure’, ‘It’s hopeless’). These are examples of the evil spirit world trying to dominate us, and put a good person out of action.

Will this happen to us as Unificationists? You can bet it will happen. We need to build up the strength to say ‘get away!’ ‘I am doing God’s work, and I am not going to let anyone or anything get in the way of that!’

This is what Jacob did in fighting the angel all night until the angel gave up. Finally he received a huge kick in the groin which must have taken some time to recover from!

We have to win these battles as True Parents have shown us until finally they can stand as a ruler of the two worlds, as the mediators between the two worlds (the cosmos). That kind of awesome power is being used to cut us off from our Original Sin when we go through the Blessing.

Often times we don’t grasp the truth and reality of that because our eyes are not spiritually open enough and our spiritual strength and purity is not developed, but we need to try to understand it.



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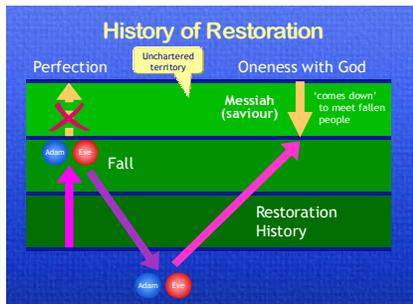
All fallen men have inherited some of the archangel’s nature – Lucifer’s position. We have a sense that there are two Lords with equal value. Are they? No! God is God, the Creator of the Universe. Lucifer, while he has a position of a leader of angels, he is in no way created to be a dominant figure equal to God. We have come to believe and feel that and be unconsciously dominated by evil due to our weakness. As we strengthen ourselves we will be able to move away from that give and take with evil, and move closer and closer to standing as True Sons and Daughters.

For women – it is like being like ‘fallen Eve’ who also inherited the nature of the archangel.
Salvation is putting things right and being restored to our Original Nature and position.



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This is the third section of this 1st Presentation today.



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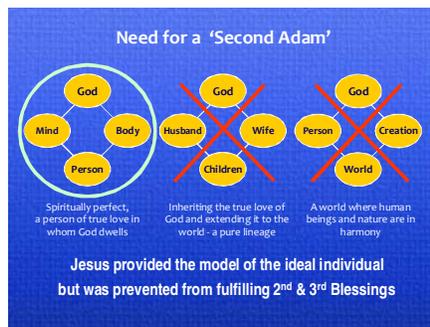
Unprincipled love knocked us off the right path. There's a certain stage of growth that was never gone through (represented by the red 'X'). This third level represents 'uncharted territory' where we may fear that there are 'monsters' and be afraid to go there (like the folks of the middle ages imaging territory beyond the 'known world'). Someone has to pioneer going there, and it may be unfamiliar. Spiritually it's a stage where no one has lived. The first people to go through this are the True Parents. It was like a jungle, and they cleared a path for us to follow. Father often said, just hang on and I'll pull you up. Many started to criticize or found it too hard and let go, and dropped back into their old lives.

Sometimes we just have to hang on because we don't understand everything. Just for the sake of receiving the same benefit that True Parents have accomplished, we are asked to fulfill the Tribal level, not the world level as TP's are striving to solve! You and I don't have to be the savior for the world. What a relief! We will become prosperous as we follow them to fulfill the Three Great Blessings. How grateful we can be to our True Parents for that! At the same time, to become a 'Tribal Messiah' requires my whole investment. Let's think in this way, 'If True Father could do that, and True Mother could do that, then I can do my very best.'

Hell was made by human beings outside of the realm of God's plan, and therefore he will not intervene in those things because that would start to acknowledge them as part of His creation. God cannot do that. Instead he has been guiding the history of religion. Religious history has been a path of establishing the Foundation of Faith and the Foundation of Substance in order to receive the direct guidance of God. So we strive to come to the point where Adam and Eve reached before they 'fell'. We strive to have readiness to listen to and

receive from the person that God sends, and then the Messiah ‘comes down to us’ (the yellow arrow in the completion stage) from the place of heavenly heart united with God (not literally in the sky, but close to God’s heart). True Parents come down through this ‘uncharted territory’ to help us. For example, Father will often speak a very long time to a large group of people because it takes time to lift everybody up to the place where we can feel the truth and love from God. And then we feel, ‘yes it’s clear now, and I can do that!’ However a little while afterwards we need help again to catch the vision of what we need to do. To be elevated all the time, we need to work on it and gradually heal and restore ourselves.

In the early days of our movement Father would also often listen for hours to one person with the same heart, to lift them up to God’s realm of love. So, the Messiah brings a higher truth and a greater love ‘down’ to us when we lift ourselves up as high as we can at the time of the Blessing. They have been going the way of restoration (in this completion stage) with the Blessed Couples together, combating all the misunderstandings and contempt of the fallen world which are attached to us.

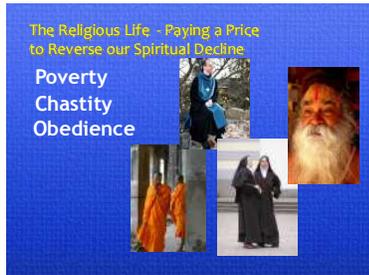


Slide 30

Because Jesus was not able to be Blessed, at a certain stage of his life he began to speak about the need for a 2nd coming. The Jewish people never thought about the Messiah needing to come again; they are the ones who ‘invented’ the concept of Messiah. Even today they never talk about a 2nd Coming. It was not part of God’s original plan for Jesus. That role to become a True Parent, True Teacher and True Owner was left unfulfilled, undone and as a cause of regret. Therefore he had to find someone else to fulfill that role, who of course is our True Father.

Tragically Jesus was denied the opportunity to fulfill the 2nd Blessing and 3rd Blessings, but he was able to provide the model for one who was individually one with God, and if we embody a Christ-like heart and life we can become one with God individually too.

His legacy was to be a model of individual maturity. (The 2nd & 3rd stages were denied. X X)

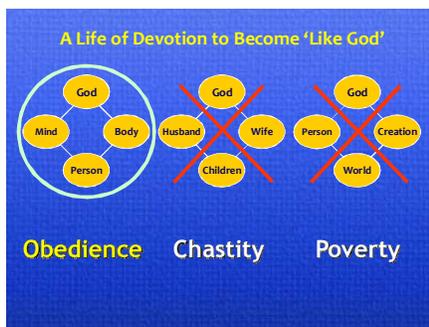


Slide 31

Christianity in the next centuries put emphasis on a religious life which is paying a price for our spiritual decline.

And what way do they do that? Abstinence/Chastity – denying married life. So there are several kinds of monks and holy men, and nuns in the pictures. They believed that ‘if I want to take myself seriously I have to deny marriage and family.’ That was the pinnacle of religious life. Is that the ideal? No, we know that now. They took a vow of poverty, chastity and obedience. These all relate to the 2nd and 3rd Blessing. Interestingly it is following Jesus example.

Serious religious people took three vows; Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.



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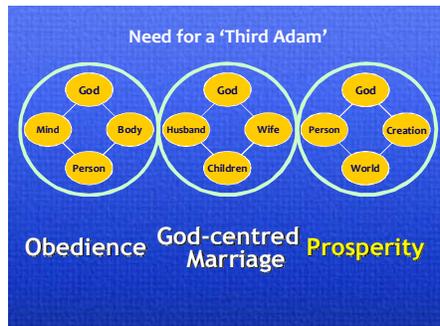
Adam and Eve should have been obedient, and this would have protected them from The Fall. But we lost that kind of beautiful attitude to God. Jesus restored this.

But chastity and poverty are denials of things that God wanted to give mature ‘Adam’ and ‘Eve’.



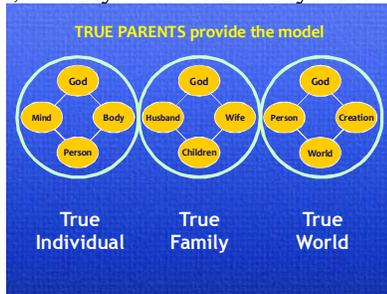
Slide 33

Originally we should be getting married and enjoying God Centred relationships. True Parents come to show us the next stages after obedience, which we should have already been doing as Christ like people matured to the top of the growth stage. That's the kind of people that Father should be working with, but he's never had that kind of people; he's had to teach us, or we had to find out ourselves before we met True Parents.



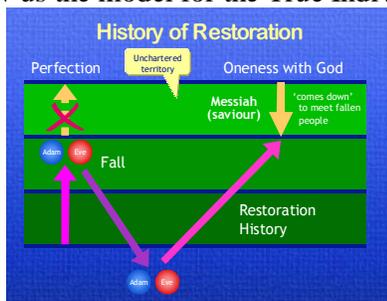
Slide 34

So True Parents came to show us how to create God Centred families and to become prosperous, healthy and in harmony with the natural world.



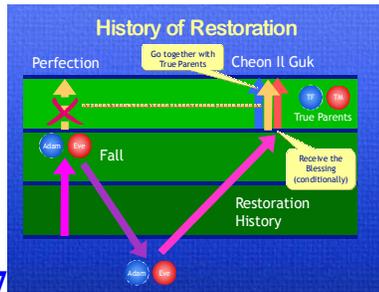
Slide 35

They show us the model for the True Individual, True Family and True World.



Slide 36

So, as you can see once again, the Messiah comes to us when we are conditionally at the top of the growth stage through offering some symbolic conditions in our life of faith.



Slide 37

This is where True Parents meet us; this is where the Blessing takes place. It doesn't mean that everyone who receives the Blessing is at this point, but True Parents are giving it 'conditionally'. So, you can be anywhere along that pink arrow, and God is saying 'OK, you can receive the Blessing if you fulfil certain things.' And of course this means too on the condition that you will continue to work on yourself, and your family and on the Third Blessing. If God were to wait until we were perfectly mature, there'd be no hope for us!

So, this is the wonderful grace of God, allowing us – who are midway between God and Satan, to negotiate a way for us to be separated from Satan. So, this battle is going on for our lives. If we meet True Parents and receive the Blessing and go with them, this is our journey of salvation, going through the uncharted territory.

I have to tell you, it's not going to be easy because we're the first people to do it, and we are also coming from an un-ideal background, and not mature enough as we should have been. Even though we are bringing various problems into this journey, True Parents are allowing us to go with them. This is God's Grace and forgiveness. This is God's unmerited favour and love.

The fact that we have a way, a way out, is extraordinary; it's amazing. We have to value and treasure that and make our effort to receive it with that attitude.