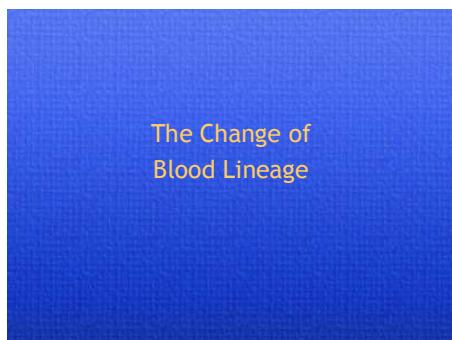
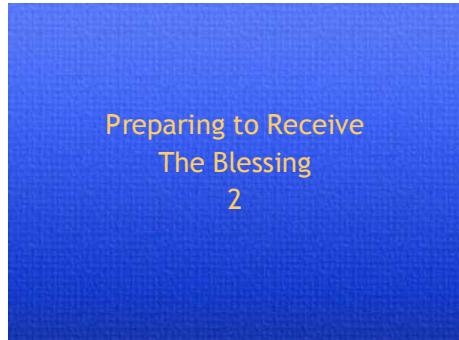


## Preparing to Receive the Blessing - Part 2

### The Change of Lineage

#### Slide 1



#### Slide 2

Of the three things, love, life and lineage, the most important is lineage. Love and life come out of lineage and therefore it is God's greatest priority to solve the problem of the fallen lineage.



#### Slide 3

This **Part 2** will be about 'The Change of Lineage' looking from the point of view of Judaism and Christianity: the Old and New Testaments. Everything that we do in the Completed Testament era is built on that foundation. Sometimes you might think that our Unification way of doing things is peculiar to us, but I'm going to show you how it is firmly rooted in the Old and New Testaments.

Divine Principle explains that God started the work of restoration in Adam's Family, right after the Fall of Man. Old Testament history is all about making a foundation to send the Messiah.

1.

True Parents are completing this work and striving to do it within 3 generations, a very short time compared to all history. It's not of our doing, but we are fortunate enough to be living in this time!

All religious practice is to do with purification and rebinding oneself to God in love. 'Religio' means to rebind. Up to now, salvation has been for the individual. Religions have encouraged the building of good marriages and families, but extrapolated from the effort to become an enlightened and saved individual. Now it's open for us to go a path of salvation as families as well. The Blessing is offering salvation on a family level for the first time. The fundamental transformation of humanity can come when the problem of the family can be solved; it is that significant. God has been waiting for this moment and preparing the way so seriously.

#### The path back

- Recognition of Sin (*het* or *harmartia*)
  - Missing the mark or target, go astray
  - Breaking divine law, 'turning away' from God
- Repentance
  - To stop, turn around and return to God
- Atonement
  - Rectify wrong, to the best of one's ability
  - Can never be enough
- Forgiveness
- Reconciliation

#### Slide 4

When we think about the restoration course, what we can call 'the path back' – the return to God – in Jewish tradition we see cycles of repentance, so called deuteronomistic cycles. They involved: **the recognition of sin** (*het* or *harmartia* in latin) which means to miss the mark or go astray, as though God shoots an arrow, but it goes off rather than hitting the target. Sin is to do with breaking divine law, and turning away from God. All these concepts are congruent with the Divine Principle's view of the Fall. Then this led to the second step:

**repentance** Under God's guidance and leadership God led the Israelites to stop, turn around and behave differently.

God is encouraging us to sort these problems out in our physical life time. This leads to:

**atonement** seeking reconciliation, 'becoming one-ness' again. Conscious seeking to make acts of atonement, making sincere effort of heart and behavior to return to God's bosom. The Jewish people came to the priest and made sacrifices – the animal represented the sinful person, and was sacrificed in place of the person. In the same way we are asked to feel as though we are giving up our life in order to find new life with God. This step leads to:

**forgiveness** and finally complete **reconciliation**

So the faithful people of the Bible go through this cycle. From time to time our repentance becomes deeper, and we gradually progress closer to God, rather in cycles, feeling 'I'm ok' for a while, and then realizing that there's a deeper layer of healing needed. There are often tears as we go deeper and deeper through this process of healing the heart.

### Baptism

- Sacrament through which a person is made Christ's
- Water - outward sign
  - Life giving, Cleansing
  - Flood judgement
  - Church is the Ark
  - Crossing Red Sea
  - Slavery to Freedom
  - Death to Life
  - Buried with Christ
  - Resurrected with Christ

## Slide 5

Christians inherited the tradition of **Baptism** from John the Baptist. He used this ritual to help people very seriously prepare for the coming of the Messiah. It started in the waters of the Jordan River ( shown in the picture).

In the Christian tradition this is called a **sacrament** which is an outward sign of an inward Grace. It is symbolic, but at the same time very important. Symbolic does not mean unimportant; the symbolic act is embodying everything which will come later in substance. A symbolic act of sacrament is a very meaningful experience.

This experience of baptism in the river Jordon is literally like dying and being reborn; dying to ones' old self. Through a symbolic experience you trust God that in the 'dying to my old self; as a sinful person I deserve to die', you then become so grateful - as you are lifted up out of the water - for a chance to be new and purified. A person who would have gone through this sincere process at the time of Jesus would have been well prepared to meet him and understand what he was talking about, and be prepared to follow and receive from Jesus.

God gave us the ability to imbue things with meaning when we go through symbolic sacraments. Water is imbued with meaning, and with God's approval for that experience, to the extent that the person is one with God's intention, Satan has to back off; the person is separated from Satan, to a certain extent. People are sanctified and purified, feeling changed and uplifted.

### Gifts of Baptism

- Sign of the Cross
  - Jesus' victorious life
- Receive a 'Christian name'
  - New identity
  - God knows us personally
- Member of Christ
  - Union with Christ
  - Vine and Branches
- Child of God
  - New birth into God's family
  - Brothers and sisters in Christ
- Inheritor of God's Kingdom

**For The Principle,  
this is ADOPTION  
into the lineage  
of God**

## Slide 6

So, the sacraments of Christianity are the 'growth stage' effort to prepare to receive the Messiah. There are certain gifts of Baptism.

A **sign of the cross** is put on the forehead of the baby, and the baby receives it's '**Christian name**'. The child is given a new name, a new identity. So people traditionally chose names of Biblical figures such as Joseph, Mary, or David. It was a way of identifying with Jesus. It means that God has his eye on the baby, 'knows me personally', under the sphere of protection.

‘God parents’ are selected to have a special protective role towards the child, and to help in their spiritual education.

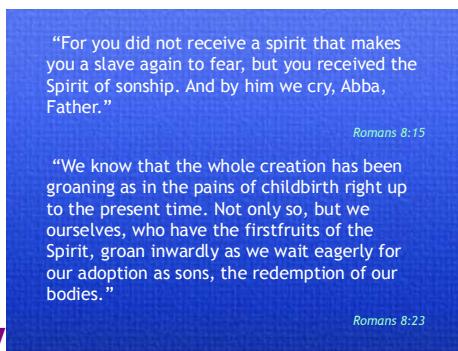
This moment of baptism marks the entry into the body of Christ, as a **Child of God** in the family of God, the Church. It has been a profoundly meaningful stage in God’s preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ. There are beautiful rituals surrounding the different ways that Christian communities used to surround the children and their families with a protective and significant atmosphere. Often the school, church and family would co-operate together to embrace this acknowledging that we need to go through this process to invite God into our lives. People have embraced these traditions out of faith.

( note to the lecturer: You can give examples from those traditions which are known by the particular group to whom you are giving this presentation.)

Another sacrament is Confirmation Day at an older age for Catholics and even older for Protestants. It signifies being connected to Christ, as in '**I am the vine; you are the branches**'.

So, Jesus could leave a legacy in his life time of true brotherly and sisterly love. This was extremely significant that Jesus opened up the era of true brothers and sisters, and sense that we are part of the ‘family of God’. No matter what race, nationality all mankind are my brothers and sisters, and there would not be war any more, if we were to apply Jesus words; we would be **inheritors of God’s Kingdom**. From the Principle point of view it marks the stage of ‘Adoption into the lineage of God’. It marks the stage of being adopted from the fallen world into the Family of God. St. Paul referred to the church as ‘the Bride of Christ’.

Adoption means that we have a different root, but we are being counted as one of a new family, therefore the idea of spiritual rebirth through Jesus’ love.



## Slide 7

As it says in Romans 8:15 “**For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father.**”

Coming home to ‘Abba!'; the spirit of sonship; coming home to parents. Not actual sonship, but the *spirit* of sonship. But, how wonderful to have that when before there was no such thing! Before that was the servants level, or even further from God’s heart as a slave of slaves, without very much dignity in front of God.

It represented a great step forward closer to God.

Romans 8:23

**"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."**

St. Paul expresses it very clearly that we have the ‘first fruits of the Spirit’, but are ‘groaning’ inwardly because – like Jesus whose body was taken by Satan – we are subject to Satan’s accusation, and are waiting for the full salvation yet to come.

When you study the ‘Christology’ section of the D.P. it goes into great detail about this.

So we’ve looked at the efforts in Christianity to change blood lineage symbolically. We’ve applied Principled language to the Christian traditions.

#### Sacrament of Eucharist

- Outward sign
  - Bread and wine
- Inward grace
  - Body and blood of Christ
- Companion of Christ
  - Share bread with Christ & fellow Christians
  - Sharing in the life of Christ
- Drink from a common cup
  - “I am the vine, you are the branches”
  - Christ’s blood, life, flowing through veins
  - Christ lives in me

#### Slide 8

There’s another **sacrament** which is an outward sign of some inward Grace which is called the **Eucharist**; the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, by eating bread and drinking wine. As we’ve discussed the blood line (lineage) is very important. Jesus said at the last supper: **'Do this in remembrance of me, until I come again'**. We as Unificationists don’t need to take this sacrament because he has already come.

Through this sacrament we become a companion (panis=bread) sharing closely as a friend or family member in the life of Christ.

Christianity has made this more complicated than Jesus intended it to be.

We ‘drink from the same cup’, that is we are going through the same thing together. It depends on your sincerity and brings you protection.

#### You are what you eat

*"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me."*

John 6:55-57

#### Slide 9

You become like Christ, you take his life into yourself (‘eat’ his body and blood) ...saying “I want to part of this lineage”



## Slide 10

Taking in the body and blood of Christ;  
Beautiful words!  
If you take it seriously you off on a good footing.

### Sacrament of marriage

- Sanctification of the union of a man and a woman for a Christian life together and for procreation
- The spouses confer the sacrament on each other
- Sacrament to restore chastity lost at the fall

## Slide 11

Another Sacrament is that of **Marriage**

This tradition shows the desire of people of faith to solve the problem of sin, and therefore is a foundation for the Second Coming.

### Conditions for marriage

- Both spouses are Christians
- The marriage is entered into freely



## Slide 12

Conditions for marriage in Christian tradition:  
**Both people are Christians.**

- In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of N and N, to pray for God's blessing on them to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

- Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

## Slide 13

The Christian concept is that marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the Grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

### Freely entered into

- N, will you take N to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

## Slide 14

**It is a freely entered into agreement** – not done by coercion or force.

The vows include, “Forsaking all others” which means no other partner in your life now , just one, “For the time on earth until death”. It’s a little bit temporary ‘We will be like angels’ In terms of restoration it is not an officially sanctioned eternal togetherness. There are many barriers that TP’s are breaking down to enable us to be united eternally in heavenly Grace.

### Vows

- I, N, take you, N, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; according to God's holy law. In the presence of God I make this vow.

## Slide 15

Under the Blessing we are pledging to be together eternally, which means that the foundation to be one with God will be fulfilled during our course of the Blessing on earth, or at least by the time a 3 Generation Family is built. It means that we will not be separated in different places in the spiritual world, if we develop the level of heart of a ‘tribal Messiah’ during our life on earth.

### Exchange of rings

- *Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to N and N a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- *N, I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage. With my body I worship you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

## Slide 16

The rings symbolize eternal love...a never ending circle, made of gold which doesn't tarnish. Very beautiful words, and very beautiful commitment.

Through Christian marriage the sexual act becomes is a sacred act. Through the Christian marriage it is spiritualized, elevated. It becomes an act of communion; a sacrament bestowed by spouses on each other.

### Purpose of marriage

- Place for conjugal love, mutual support and comfort
- Proper, and only, place for sexual relations
- For creating new life and raising children in God's family

*When husband and wife are united in marriage, they are no longer seen as something earthly, but as the image of God Himself.*

*St. John Chrysostom*

## Slide 17

***"When husband and wife are united in marriage, they are no longer seen as something earthly, but as the image of God Himself.***

*St. John Chrysostom*

It is a very poetic ideal. It's the only place where sexual love is sanctioned by God.

Through the Blessing Ceremony, as you will see in Lecture 3, the elements of Baptism, Communion, Marriage, and even Ordination, are brought together...

## Slide 18

In the Blessing the elements of Baptism, Communion, Marriage, and even Ordination, are brought together. We are called to become like priests in building a Blessed Marriage, and our home becomes a sacred place for God to dwell. In the Jewish Tradition too the home is emphasised and made a sacred place by many rituals and traditions. Why? Because everything was there to make way for the coming of God's tradition, if Jesus were to fulfill his mission. More clarification about this will come in **Part 3**.

### Marriage and family

Marriage lays the foundation for the family which is a "home" or "domestic" church headed by nuptial priests—the parents.



### Slide 19

In the Orthodox tradition – The bride and groom become a King and Queen, and share a cup of wine, which of course is symbolizing the sanctification of the lineage. Isn't that beautiful? It's also symbolizing the responsibility we are taking on when we marry centered on God.

The World-level Religious traditions uphold marriage and emphasise **purity** before marriage and **fidelity** in marriage

They are upholding the value of marriage in our society and support the young couple in a coming together of lineages. **The families are marrying together.**

### Slide 20

The World-level Religious traditions uphold marriage and emphasise purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage, and building a better world; the coming together of lineages; families are marrying together. The two families coming together are often very different, and they have to make effort to overcome troubles. This is not new to the values of the Blessing, but has been developed by God through the history of religious traditions developed over the centuries. The community supports this, and it brings the community together as the couple work to harmonize and raise their family.

Where this has been done it is a great source of stability in society.

Where society is stable in our countries is where these various religious traditions have been upheld. Let's see some others:



### Slide 21

Here's the Jewish "*chuppah*" or canopy.



### Slide 22

Here's a Hindu Ceremony with a lot of meaning and symbolism with various steps and scriptures, with a lot of family support. It's so important to have community and family support; people cheering you on as you enter marriage.



### Slide 23

Here's a Korean tradition - with an untraditional picture. In one part of the ceremony the Korean tradition is for the husband to carrying his new bride. The various traditions emphasize the enormous importance of purity and fidelity for the sake of the continuation of the human race.

How is the process of Salvation  
Described in the Bible?

FIVE WAYS:

1. Paying a Price
2. A Battle
3. A Sacrifice

## Slide 24

How is the process of salvation described in the Bible? Certain metaphors are used to describe this process. I have identified 5, most of which come from the writings of St. Paul.

1. **Paying a price** – you could buy a slaves' freedom if they had served you well.
2. **A Battle** – defeating evil. The forces of goodness are championed by Christ.

Animal Sacrifices



Language appropriated to Jesus

## Slide 25

3. **Sacrifice** – reading back into Jesus death in hind-sight, Christian theology has postulated that he was a sacrifice. The sacrifice is offered as atonement for our sins– theology was developed to show us how much God is investing in our salvation. The Israelites chose the best of their flock to offer to God. So this language was appropriated to say that Jesus was the sacrifice.

How is the process of Salvation  
Described in the Bible?

FIVE WAYS:

1. Paying a Price
2. A Battle
3. A Sacrifice
4. A Courtroom Drama
5. A Broken Promise

## Slide 26

4. **Courtroom drama** – The Judge has to be impartial ‘according to the law’, just as God is ‘according to the Principle’ and has to follow the Principle to remove Satan’s accusation. Christ is the defense lawyer, begging for mercy from God for the accused.

5. **A broken Promise...** like a promise that needs to be restored.

All these metaphors are trying to help us understand what God is doing, which is actually quite hard to understand. And another metaphor, as it says in the Bible:

How is the process of Salvation Described in the Bible?

Also:

"After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!"

Romans 11:24

### Slide 27

#### In Romans 11:24

*"After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!"*

#### 6. Grafting – we are described as wild olive trees.

Wild trees may produce bitter fruit; likened to fallen people. We are grafted into the cultivated olive tree; a metaphor for Christ. [ St. Paul is saying how much more easy it must be for the Jewish people to come to Jesus ( ‘the natural branches’). – not important for this lecture ]

### New Age - New Metaphor

Salvation

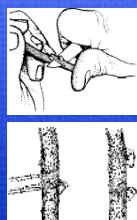
as

“Grafting”

### Slide 28

Father comes back to this metaphor, saying that salvation is in effect ‘Grafting’. Has anyone done some grafting?

#### What is ‘Grafting’?



### Slide 29

You might do this to fruit trees if you are a gardener. Make a nick above the bud, putting the good stock into the not so good trunk and binding it around. Then it will grow, and produce good fruit. Eventually the roots will receive a positive influence too.

We need to be grafted into the true olive tree, by receiving a bud from the True Parents after we have cut off our wild branches as much as possible.



### Slide 30

Does this metaphor fit? It goes to the root of the problem, and indicates a change of our lineage because our roots become affected by the new bud if the grafting is done well.

There's some pain involved in trimming off our fallen natures, and we can see that new blood is likened to new sap. A price has to be paid/ effort and time are required.

It is good for describing a family 'tree' being engrafted into a new orchard, beyond just the individual.

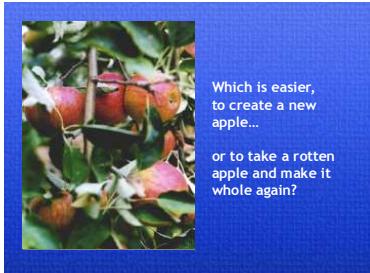
We are judged as good or bad fruit, and the goal is to become 'fruitful' as expressed in Genesis. In the end we are saved by the binding process of love and our devotion to our True Parents, which repairs the damage.



### Slide 31

By the grafting process we can become part of the True Parents' Family, centering on our True Parents who are the restored Tree of Life and Tree of Knowledge. Their children are born in a new realm of love, and then the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of disciples can be saved by binding to them, and becoming true sons and daughters spiritually and physically. This is happening according to spiritual and scientific sensitivities. A new evolution of humanity is taking place, centered on our heart of love for God ad True Parents which will enable us to successfully go through the grafting process.

Let's see how Father expressed this:



## Slide 32

This has been an incredibly difficult question and task for God, and human beings have been struggling to understand why a loving God couldn't save us more quickly!

### Consider the task...

In the autumn beautiful apples are harvested, but if a particular apple is rotten then the farmer throws it away. One apple may have bad skin, yet be very good on the inside, while another apple may look good on the surface, yet be rotten inside and worthless. Human beings belong in the second category. There is no possibility for a fallen man who is corrupted on the inside to be easily salvaged. Even though there may be some damage on an apple's surface, if its seeds are intact then it still has value. However, man is the opposite, being intact on the outside, but rotten on the inside.

## Slide 33

***"In the autumn beautiful apples are harvested, but if a particular apple is rotten then the farmer throws it away. One apple may have bad skin, yet be very good on the inside, while another apple may look good on the surface, yet be rotten inside and worthless. Human beings belong in the second category. There is no possibility for a fallen man who is corrupted on the inside to be easily salvaged. Even though there may be some damage on an apple's surface, if its seeds are intact then it still has value. However, man is the opposite, being intact on the outside, but rotten on the inside."***

After the Fall man became rotten all the way through. Would it be simple to restore that kind of man back to his original state? Would it be easier for God to eliminate everyone corrupted by the fall and start all over again, or easier for Him to keep trying to mend those rotten apples until they reach perfection? Among the many diseases afflicting humankind, the worst disease is the one brought by the fall, and to make things worse, people do not even realize that they are contaminated.

## Slide 34

***"After the Fall man became rotten all the way through. Would it be simple to restore that kind of man back to his original state? Would it be easier for God to eliminate everyone corrupted by the fall and start all over again, or easier for Him to keep trying to mend those rotten apples until they reach perfection? Among the many diseases afflicting humankind, the worst disease is the one brought by the fall, and to make things worse, people do not even realize that they are contaminated."***

Who introduced such a disease to mankind? Satan stole God's most precious possession: love. When Jesus said to love your enemy he was talking about people who have become the victims. Evil people are merely victims of God's enemy and you must love them and try to restore them. Even though fallen people have become temples of Satan, all men and women were originally born to be God's temples. God is destined to restore His body, which is humankind. God can restore humankind by perfecting the love of God in men and women.

Rev. Sun Myung Moon

## Slide 35

*“Who introduced such a disease to mankind? Satan stole God's most precious possession: love. When Jesus said to love your enemy he was talking about people who have become the victims. Evil people are merely victims of God's enemy and you must love them and try to restore them. Even though fallen people have become temples of Satan, all men and women were originally born to be God's temples. God is destined to restore His body, which is humankind. God can restore humankind by perfecting the love of God in men and women.”*

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The End

## Slide 36