**Presentation Three: The Matching and Blessing Process**

**Slide 1**



Our Goal is to make a unit of True Love which can contribute to the Building of what we call ‘An Ideal World’ or ‘The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and n the Spirit World’ or ‘Cheon Il Guk’.

True Parents’ main mission in their lifetime is to give the Blessing to humankind, and to bequeath this responsibility to their children. True Parents are famous for holding Mass Weddings, and for pictures like this one, but how many people really understood what they are doing?

This is the beginning of the healing of the human family from the suffering of the Fall of Man. This is the restoration of the true Godly Lineage in which you are going to be a participant, starting by going through the Matching and Blessing process, and eventually building a ‘Three Generation Blessed Family’.

**Slide 2**

‘Receiving the Messiah’ happens at the time of the Blessing, as described in the Part 1 presentation.

**Slide 3** When we become Unification Church members, we begin the process of the restoration of ‘myself’, and go through a certain course to make symbolic and other conditions to receive the Blessing. We receive ‘rebirth’ through the Blessing, and we begin to follow True Parents through that ‘uncharted territory’.

As you learned in Parts one and two, “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’ 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.” “ This is the unmerited Grace of God.”

We are called to make sincere and dedicated preparation to be new people, purified people who can become part of True Parents’ Family.

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**Slide 4**

This is the Second Period – the growth stage - of your personal restoration course; to build a loving mature couple relationship and family.

It will start with a great euphoria of the potential for true love! Most people are very excited to receive their eternal spouse; perhaps you have waited many years for this, and are looking forward to that very much. But that is just the beginning of building that eternal relationship. There are stages in that process of development.

This Second Period will be complete when your children are being Blessed.

**Slide 5**

Then, in the formation stage of this Second Period of restoring a Family, you get to know your spouse better, and you discover that there is a lot to learn about your spouse, that you are far more different than you imagined! This is a very important learning process in your relationship; learning who that person really is, adjusting to that and facing those challenges of heart with faith and love, with a positive attitude. It’s important to remember that “My spouse is God’s Son or Daughter” and invest your heart and love.

**Slide 6**

Then, hopefully you learn to co-operate and build a new family culture. So the two different people come together from a very different background and they learn to work and live together and grow closer to that oneness and build a new family culture which has all kinds of traditions. True Parents have given us some essential traditions, for example we are asked to offer ‘Family Pledge’ regularly, and we have the 8 Day Ceremony for our children, and we come to Sunday Service, we tithe and are actively participating in our Faith Community to serve others.

But beyond that in your home, there are lots of things that you might do which are unique to your own family. For example, how you arrange your child’s birthday party might be quite different from another Blessed Family according to the lovely things that you bring from your family and culture or origin, whether it be Philipino, Korean or African. So, every family has its own unique and creative way of doing things within the framework of Blessed Family Traditions. That is also such a beautiful thing to combine two very different traditions harmoniously. It takes time, heart, creativity and lots of heart to develop that.

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The gradually you become a mature family

**Slide 8**

This is a *reversal course* in which we are changing the fallen patterns  
of our lineage - facing the mistakes of our ancestors until we become the representative of True Parents to them. There have been many, many problems in people’s lives. People have committed sins, crimes and have gone through terrible sufferings, and have often gone far distant from God’s love. We find that there’s an imprint of all that in each person which we have inherited.

**Slide 9**

So, when we turn that history around and work to create the ‘ Three Generation Blessed Family’ we are going to go on a reversal course. We will face those sufferings or the effects of those mistakes again, and are asked to persevere in NOT REPEATING those mistakes, but instead RESTORING OUR TRUE HEART, and healing the effects of those mistakes.

We are challenged to change our response to them to a God-centred, forgiving and loving response.

We see there are many troubles that we face in our Blessed Families. We are not suddenly transformed into ideal families; we go through many difficulties, and we are challenged to build something better than what happened in the past. This is our personal human responsibility.

**Slide 10**

And then our children will have their families and you’ll become grandparents. Eventually the Blessed family becomes a Three Generation Blessed Family. That’s the task before us, to build that in our life time.

So how we go through the beginning of that, the very practical aspects of that, is what I’m going to explain to you in this Presentation.



**Slide 11**

The whole process of going through the Matching and Blessing is the process of being ‘Reborn’. It’s actually a strange new world, don’t you think, for a baby to come into the world, and get used to the rhythms of life? It takes time and requires a lot of love to be invested in the baby. A lot of cuddles and patience form the parents is needed! If there’s enough love the baby will thrive.

So also, we want to make this process of ‘rebirth’ a wonderful experience for the people who are coming forward to be matched and Blessed. That’s why we’ve created a process through which we want to support you.

**Slide 12**



What are The Qualifications to be an Applicant for the Matching?

A full explanation of this can be found at [**www.bfdeu.org**](http://www.bfdeu.org), ‘1st Gen Blessing’.

You must be/have:

1. *At least* 1 year active membership of the FFWPU - before applying – and that means you must have kept sexual purity for *at least* all of that time  
 2.  Studied the Divine Principle up to 7 Day level workshop   
3.  Regular attendance to at least one FFWPU program ( e.g. Sunday Service, WAIT, IRFF )  
4. Making regular tithng or financial contributions

5. Demonstrating good character, which includes maturity to be a responsible person with self-discipline, and an unselfish life-style ( e.g. responsible studies and/or employment )  
6. Attended a Blessing Preparation Workshop  
7. Being connected to and participating in a Unification Community of other Blessed Families

8. At least 20 years old

9. Belief that Father and Mother Moon are the True Parents; fulfilling the mission of the Second Advent of the Messiah

**Slide 13**



So, first you have to qualify yourself. How?

1. Enter the ‘Womb of True Love’. It starts by joining our movement which is like loving our True Parents and being loved by them so as to be ‘conceived in the womb of God’s True Love’. It is followed by ‘The Foundation to Receive the Messiah’ or ‘rebirth’, or ‘the Foundation to Overcome the Fallen Nature’ which is done by:
2. Building your Foundation of Faith – Strengthening your belief in True Parents as the Messiah/ the Second Coming of Christ; building your relationship with God and practicing your faith for at least one year with regular devotion ; continued study and prayer.
3. Building your Foundation of Substance – serving harmoniously with other members as ‘brothers and sisters’ in your local Unification Community and sharing your faith with at least one spiritual child.

So, those two foundations make your‘The Foundation to Receive the Messiah’ at the Blessing.

Our International President has asked the BFD Staff to encourage you to make sincere efforts to find at least one spiritual child before you are Blessed, and remind you by the time you are ready to have your own physical children that True Parents are asking us to have shared our faith with at least three people. This becomes a protecting barrier of love which shields them from evil spiritual influences, and at the same time teaches us how to devote our heart to love others with true love. This is of course a great foundation to love our own children.

Throughout our life we are asked to share our faith with 360 families, and through that become a ‘Tribal Messiah’. So, these things will be our contribution to the work of our True Parents – the Parents of Heaven Earth and Humankind - to bring the solution to the world problems.

Let me read True Father’s words to help me explain the reason for this:

As Father said in *“The Sermon for God's Day”* in Tarrytown New York in 1973,

*“If you people following the Principle long for what you used to have, looking back and missing what belonged to your past, you are going to be a failure in God’s sight. You have five spiritual senses. I know you have a resounding inner voice telling you that you must go on, transcend the limits of the New York family and the American family. You are destined to go through untold difficulties to accomplish what Jesus did not accomplish on the physical level. You have to do greater things than Jesus did because you are physically alive in this world.*

*In my talks about the Blessing, I told you to go through three years of public life and to bring three more spiritual children in order to be Blessed. But that is only superficial. Three years of public life means a dedicated, sacrificial life. To bring spiritual children involved raising them up to be Blessed in Holy Matrimony too. But even if you attain that much, you cannot go to heaven all by yourselves. Without True Parents, you are not qualified to go to Heaven. What you able to do is at best only 5% of the total. With the 95%accomplished by God and our True Parents, you can enjoy the full 100% level. Without what Parents have done, you are not qualified to enjoy that position.”*

**The Process of the Matching**

We want to support you as you go through this journey. It’s a gradual process and it requires your ownership, where you have to participate and make the decisions your own. So within this process there’s the freedom to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. That’s why we developed a 7 month program.

Since January 2009, the BFD’s around the word have been asked by our International President to make a paradigm shift.

True Parents are not matching the 1st Generation Candidates any more, and gave the responsibility to the Continental Directors in 2005. Now we are asked to develop online and offline programs to organize introductions between different Blessing Departments.

People long for True Parents to match them, but how you are matched doesn’t matter as much as what you make of it, and this responsibility will not be taken on by any of the True Family.

**Slide 14**



Since January 2009, the BFD’s around the word have been asked by our International President to make a paradigm shift. A shift from ‘absolute matching’ ( referring to the time when Candidates received the matching from True Father directly to ‘relative matching’ ( When others are representing True Parents and making suggestions ).

Hyun Jin Nim also gave a direction that no one is to organize ‘absolute matchings’ by photographs in the way that True Father sometimes did.

**Slide 15**



This system is our European system, and has been approved by Pres. Song in summer 2008. We co-operate with several other regions in the world. Applications can come from 1st Generation Unificationists, ‘so called ‘Jacob Generation’ candidates ( Who grew up in a Unificationist Family and were conceived before their parents received the Blessing ), and Ambassadors for Peace who fulfill the qualifications.



**Slide 16**

Steps 1,2 and 3 we already went over.

Step 4 is to appoint your advocate.

***What is an advocate?***( please also see the web-site form, ”My Life Story”)

This is a person who knows you well, but is not a member of your immediate family, and can act in the capacity of a mediator between you and the BFD. Ideally they will be with you at the crucial stages of the Matching and Blessing Process, and can convey sensitive information to you, and receive communication from the BFD. This person may be your spiritual parent. They need to know you well, but at the same time be objective about you. Ask your advocate to write a page about you ( Part of ‘My Life Story’ form).

Have an interview with your National Leader or the BFD Representative in your country, and have that person fill in your Confession/Interview form. Usually a male candidate should have an interview with a man, and woman candidate with a woman, perhaps the NL,s wife, because as much as possible it’s good to feel able to confess sexual sins, and really put those things behind you. Father Moon told us at our engagement that if we had improper sexual relationships in the past, that after being matched those relationships can gradually become like a ‘bad dream’. Those confessions are kept locally, and do not appear on the data base of candidates profiles, but it must be marked as done on the Application Form.

Another part of our tradition is to offer a 7 Day Fast before the Blessing. It does not need to be done before you are matched. This is a good example of a symbolic offering/condition, and it symbolizes the restoration of all your lineage in human history! You put your trust in God and focus totally on the strength of your spirit.

It’s also good to begin to save money for your Blessing Donation.



**Slide 17**

Steps 5 and 6

When you start to submit forms, you are considered an Applicant. When all the forms are submitted correctly your data will be displayed in the secure section called ‘Matching’. Only BFD Staff can see that. The ‘My Life Story’ form will give us a sense of who you are. You need to write it with the aim that a stranger reading it will understand who you are. Medical tests need to be done, and then when all the forms and photographs are submitted correctly, you will be considered ‘a Candidate’.



**Slide 18**

Once you are a candidate, we will search on your behalf for the most suitable person available for you. We will communicate with other BFD Reps/National Leaders/ Matching Advisors (MA’s in the OMS) and advocates. When both sides agree on a selected person they offer several days of devotion and prayer, and then if still in agreement, will introduce you to that person. We might bring in the opinion of your Community leader too.

This brings us to Step 7 – the Introduction: ‘Day 1’.

Introduction is always done through a personal meeting, never by email. When you both start communicating with each other that is considered ‘Day 1’.

This is the beginning of a 7 month process made up of two parts:

Step 8 is to go through 21 Days – which we call the Communication Phase

During the 21 days you are free to visit each other if possible, and communicate as much as you can.

Step 9 - At the conclusion of that 21 Days you will receive a personal email from the BFD like this:

**Slide 19**



Step 10 – this is the time to decide; ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to start the ‘Heavenly Courtship’.

Please communicate with your BFD Rep. or NL if you haven’t already done so. You are free to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and continue with the 7 months process, or decline this offer and return to being a Candidate.

If you choose to continue relating with that person, you will then enter 25 weeks – which we call the ‘Heavenly Courtship’. It is called this so that you can have a sense that it is your responsibility to win the heart of that person, and not take anything for granted, but treasure the opportunity to consider that person as you eternal partner.

Step 11 – you will receive this email as part of your guidance for going through this period as a pre-matched couple:

**Slide 20**



**This guidance is as follows:**

During this phase you are both contemplating and committing yourselves to the following:

1. Meet, visit and get to know your engagement partner. You must meet each other AT LEAST once as soon as possible to be able to make a responsible decision.
2. Prayer and effort to win the heart of your engagement partner.
3. Prayer and reflection to understand if you want to make an eternal commitment to build a Blessed Family with and to cherish your partner with deep devotion and care.

4. Effort to make a decision about your commitment to keep heartistic and sexual fidelity in the Blessed Marriage.

5. Make an absolute commitment to raise any children you have in an environment of true love, following the traditions of a Central Blessed Family, centring on God and True Parents.

1. Think about making your commitment to growing together as a beautiful and dignified Couple, and to take responsibility for any difficulties you face along the way of restoration. If at any time you wish, please feel free to speak to your representative from the Blessed Family Department &/or your advocate, and get support.

**If ‘yes’ *it is very important* to meet each other *as soon as possible*** if you have not already done so during the Communication Phase.

It’s time to be your best! To make the effort to win the heart of the other person, and dedicate yourself to making the most serious decision of your life.

You must have met each other at least once before making your commitment and being engaged. You must not meet for the first time at the Blessing Ceremony. It needs to be a considered and un-rushed decision, with clear understanding between you that you are both happy, and willingly giving yourselves to your shared task to help each other to become a Blessed Couple. You may make that commitment before the end of 7 months, and also please be aware that a couple must not take longer than 1 year to make that decision.

Step 12 - After 7 months you will receive this email, and need to make your decision. This is your solemn decision to make.



**Slide 21**

**Slide 22**



This is how Hyung Jin Nim has expressed it , “We are here to see an eternally committed spouse.”



**Slide 23**

Please take a photograph to represent your decision and send it to your BFD Rep. This is considered to be a Commitment or Engagement photograph which will be forwarded by Susan Crosthwaite to Pres. and Mrs. Song, along with your short profiles, who will give their approval, and at that stage you will be considered to be a ‘Matched Couple’. Remember, you mustn’t meet personally for the first time and get engaged at that same time.



**Slide 24**

Step 14 is the Blessing. It includes these steps:

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The Holy Wine Ceremony will be the time when you symbolically experience the Change of Blood Lineage; and deeply sacred experience!

In the Blessing Ceremony you will recite some vows. We will look at these in more detail in a moment.

The Indemnity Ceremony is one in which you pledge never to strike your partner. We have to end the history of violence and that starts with marriage partners.



**Slide 26**

Your BFD Rep. can inform you about the Blessing Donation at the time of your preparation for the Blessing.

During the time between your matching and the Blessing please consider your fiancé/ your partner the most important thing in your life next to God, and never neglect that person, or your communication with them. Give that person what you would like them to give to you.

As a Blessed Couple live an active part of your Community Life – have a Public Life of service to others; don’t be like a worldly couple which might focus too much on material things, or individual concerns. If you do you might become like the Israelites who were influenced by the ‘Canaanites’ and forgot God’s blessings to them. Secular society is very powerful, but our love for one another in our Unification Communities should be far more attractive. It’s up to each one of us to make it so.

Keep and cultivate your depth of commitment. Promise to remember to live for the wider society; that is the true meaning of being a Blessed Family.

If you are here just to get a spouse for yourself, that attitude will bring unhappiness to your life.



**Slide 27**

Let’s look more closely at the Blessing Vows:

1. ***Do you promise to observe Heavenly Law as an original man and woman; and should you fail, do you promise to take the responsibility for doing so?***
2. ***Do you, as an ideal husband and wife, promise to establish a family that will bring joy to God eternally?***

**Slide 28**



1. ***Do you promise to inherit heavenly tradition and, as the eternal parents of goodness, raise up your children to be examples of this standard before the family and the world?***
2. ***Do you promise to be the centre of love before the society, nation, world and universe based upon the ideal family?***

Our marriage is not an ordinary one! These vows help us to aspire to that very high ideal.



**Slide 29**

The first Vow states:

1. ***Do you promise to observe Heavenly Law as an original man and woman; and should you fail, do you promise to take the responsibility for doing so?***

Pastor Hyung Jin Moon in his Blessing Address on June 26th, 2011 put it this way:



**Slide 30**

**Slide 31**



What does it mean to take responsibility? How shall we do this in practise?

e.g. if you make the mistake of criticising your spouse unfairly or sharply, how will you take responsibility

1. recognise your part in the problem

as Gandhi said:

***“I have always held that it is only when one sees one’s own mistakes with a convex lens, and does just the reverse in the case of others, that one is able to arrive at a just relative estimate of the two.”***

Don’t exaggerate the faults of your spouse, but be honest about your own mistakes

1. apologise, rather than blame

***“Forgiveness is the ornament of the brave”***Gandhi

To say ‘I’m sorry’ is such a powerful thing.

Research shows that it is 10 times more difficult for a man to say ‘I’m sorry.’ than it is for a woman. That is not to blame men, but to remind the ladies present that in future when your husband apologises, it has taken him 10 times more effort that it would for you. Women find it much easier, and may not mean it so deeply.

1. trust the good will of the other – believe in their goodness

***“The only thing that I hope that you will understand is that each individual is indispensable in completing God’s true love, peace, happiness and the ideal. We have been unaware of our tremendous value. With this knowledge of our value, which is precious, awesome and lofty, and which can bring love, peace, happiness and the ideal even to God, please become people that can praise yourselves and feel reverence for yourselves.”***

True Father 1975

1. help each other with compassion and courage to do what is right and good and loving; be patient and persevering

***“To become a friend and someone who is loved, one has to understand the other person’s sorrow and pain and comfort him. Only then can one become the other person’s friend. If you connect to someone’s heart and build a relationship of love, then you can move that person as you wish, and you will also do as she wants.”***

True Father 1959

1. Be patient and persevering.

We will all make a lot of mistakes, so don’t react too quickly. A toddler has to fall over to learn to walk. So in one way we have to make mistakes in order to learn some things. So, please do your best to be forgiving and don’t blame.

If you have troubles, seek healing and support.

***The benefit to you is that you grow your heart and overcome your fallen nature.***

**Slide 32**



The Second Vow states ***Do you, as an ideal husband and wife, promise to establish a family that will bring joy to God eternally?***

*“When we live as spouses that sacrifice for each other, live as spouses who have as their intention to constantly bring joy to God and to their spouse , that we can be worthy of being called a Blessed Family who is walking the* **Slide 33** *narrow path, who is walking the path of righteousness.”*

Being an object of God’s joy, means to respond to God, to see yourself and others as God does, and understand that you are an eternal treasure to God.



**Slide 34**

***3. Do you promise to inherit heavenly tradition and, as the eternal parents of goodness, raise up your children to be examples of this standard before the family and the world?***

***4. Do you promise to be the centre of love before the society, nation, world and universe based upon the ideal family?***



**Slide 35**



**Slide 36**

What is a life of Common Purpose?

Pull together, be on the same side, and when he or she feels like an enemy, “Love your enemy”.

Don’t change your commitment; seek help if it seems impossible.



**Slide 37**

And finally here are some stories from real people:



**Slide 38**



**Slide 39**

**Slide 40**

Petr and Linda have been blessed with a precious little summer (2011)baby!

**Slide 41**