

# The Process for Married Couples to become Blessed Couples

*By: Blessing and Family Ministry, FFWPU-USA*

The Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony is for all couples receiving the Marriage Blessing for the first time. In addition to engaged couples, all married couples are welcomed who wish to rededicate their marriage to God and each other, and experience the transformation and renewal of their relationship and lineage. This memo briefly describes the process for married couples to participate in the Blessing Ceremony.

## **The Path to the Blessing for Non-Unificationist Married Couples**

Due to the foundation that True Parents' and earlier Blessed Families have established, the gate of the Blessing has been opened to all couples that embrace the ideals and values of the Marriage Blessing. Married Couples who are Ambassadors for Peace, clergy of other faiths, associates, friends or family of Unificationists are welcome to join the Blessing with more simple conditions and commitments. We recommend the following, with the support of Unificationist mentors or pastors:

### **Step One: Becoming a Blessing Couple**

#### **Goals:**

1. 40-day Preparation of DP and Blessing Education
2. Participate in the Holy Wine Celebration
3. Participate in the Holy Blessing Celebration

#### **Explanation:**

Through this step in the process the couple prepares for and receives **God's Divine Grace** through education, the Holy Wine Ceremony and the Blessing Ceremony. **The couple then becomes a Blessing Couple.** This simply means they have begun the process to become a Blessed Couple but are not there yet. This is a position to be recognized and celebrated. It also means we are responsible to support them in completing the process to become a Blessed Couple that they have started.

#### **Special 40 Day preparation to receive the Blessing**

- A. Education - the more education a couple has about the Divine Principle, True Parents, and the meaning and value of the Blessing, the more benefit their couple will receive. We should clearly educate all married couples about the meaning and process of renewing their position as God's sons and daughters. One resource is a 17-minute video about the 5 ceremonial steps of the Blessing process and 5-minute testimony prepared for Non-Unificationist couples at: <http://bfm.familyfed.org/blessing/>. Couples will complete the first two steps at the Blessing Ceremony, and we want to educate, encourage and guide

them to complete the remaining three steps immediately following the Blessing, or as soon as they are ready after the Blessing.

- B. 40-day Blessing preparation beginning 40 days before the Blessing Ceremony, which should include education and spiritual conditions. Case by case each couple should be guided to make conditions that they understand and which are meaningful to them.
- C. Commitment to the essence of the 4 Vows:
  - 1. Creating a family of which God can be proud
  - 2. Absolute fidelity to one's spouse - no adultery, no divorce
  - 3. Raising children to inherit these values, passing them on to future generations, practicing purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
  - 4. Loving all people and families of the world beyond race & religion, as God does.

**The couple participates in the Holy Wine Celebration and Holy Blessing Celebration**

## **Step Two: Completing the Process and Becoming a Blessed Couple**

### **Goals:**

- 1. Registration to be a Blessed Couple
- 2. Blessing Offering
- 3. Chastening Ceremony
- 4. 40 Day offering through abstinence
- 5. 3-Day Ceremony

### **Explanation:**

Through this step in the process the couple fulfills their **human responsibility** by completing their Change of Blood Lineage and completing their registration as a Blessed Couple. **The couple is now a Blessed Couple and any children they have will be Blessed Children.** This is the position to be recognized and celebrated. It also means we are responsible to support them as a Blessed Couple.

- D. Through completion of online Registration for the Blessing the couple registers to be a Blessed Couple.
- E. The Blessing Offering is an offering of gratitude for receiving the Blessing of True Parents. The Blessing is of such great value we could not offer enough to pay for what it is worth. However, True Parents asked \$2000 from couples coming from Western countries. The first \$210 goes into a special Offering of Gratitude Fund for True Parents use. The remainder helps cover the costs of the Blessing Ceremony and work of the Blessing and Family Ministry USA to support our families. Non-Unificationist married couples who want to become Blessed Couples need to at least make the \$210 Offering of Gratitude to True Parents and should have the sincere heart to complete the remainder of the \$2000 Blessing Offering.

- F. Completion of the 5 Ceremonial Steps of Changing the Blood Lineage. We should clearly educate all married couples about the meaning and process of renewing their position as God’s sons and daughters. The video linked above explains each of the five ceremonial steps of the Blessing process. Couples will complete the first two steps at the Blessing Ceremony, and we want to educate, encourage and guide them to complete the remaining three steps immediately following the Blessing, or as soon as they are ready after the Blessing.
  
- G. When the couple has completed their portion of responsibility they will be registered and reported as a Blessed Couple.

Step 1 Receive God’s Divine Grace	Step 2 Fulfill Your Human Responsibility
1. 40 days of education 2. Holy Wine Ceremony 3. Blessing Ceremony	4. Register & Offering 5. Chastening Ceremony 6. 40-Day Holy Separation 7. 3-Day Holy Ceremony
<b>Blessing Couple</b>	<b>Blessed Couple</b>

**All districts and churches should take care that Blessing participants have been registered and supported before and after taking part in the Blessing.** Please create a welcome atmosphere to care for and encourage all guests, Blessing couples and Blessed couples to grow in their relationship with God and each other. This is a time to celebrate and a time through our continued relationship to educate all couples in the traditions and joy of Blessed life.

### **The Path to the Blessing for Married Unificationist Couples**

For those who join the Unification Faith as a married couple, who fully appreciate the providential and messianic role of True Parents, and want to fully inherit their foundation as a Blessed Central Family, True Father prescribed the path for married couples to be engrafted into Heaven’s lineage, and the best conditions upon which to accomplish it. Unificationist couples should complete the following, with education and support from spiritual mentors and pastors:

- 1. One year of church membership – education in the Divine Principle and in the meaning and value of the Blessing, regular attendance to worship or church programs and tithing (basic membership requirements)

2. Completion of online Application for the Blessing
3. Payment of Blessing Offering - an offering of gratitude to receive True Parents' Blessing (\$2000 per couple)
4. 40-day Blessing preparation beginning 40 days before the Blessing Ceremony, which should include education and spiritual conditions (example: 7-day fast ). Case by case each couple should be guided to make conditions that they understand and which are meaningful to them. Attend the Start Smart Blessing education workshop in person or online.
5. Completion of the essential ceremonies that constitute the "Change of Blood Lineage" process that True Parents have taught us:
  - a. Holy Wine Ceremony (prior to the Blessing, guided by local pastor or officiating couple)
  - b. The Blessing Ceremony
  - c. Chastening Ceremony (immediately following the Blessing Ceremony)
  - d. Separation Period (40 days of abstinence, renewing their relationship and spiritual intimacy from the inside, beginning from the Blessing Ceremony)
  - e. 3-day Ceremony of Renewal (the first 3 nights after the separation period)

# True Father's Words on the Blessing

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## A. True Marriage and True Love

### 1) Significance of Marriage

Why do we term the marriage ceremony "receiving the Blessing"? According to the Principle, had Adam and Eve not fallen and had become perfected, they would have stood in the position to receive the Blessing. That is to say, they were to remain the substantial objects of God. Once they were perfected, they would have been objects who totally received love from God as the subject. Through their Blessing, or marriage, God's complete love would have appeared in the world. It means that love in the human world at present will not be able to start if marriage does not exist. Who is the owner of the love? You should remember that it is not human beings but God. When God's love appears from human beings, it is God's delight and pride, and you can feel it as God's love.

A man cannot complete love by himself, since love cannot be completed alone. This applies to a woman as well. Likewise, Adam and Eve cannot receive God's love until they become one through love. In this point of view, we realize that human beings are born from God.

### 2) What do we marry for?

For what reason do we marry? It is in order to fulfill the ideal of creation, i.e., to realize the purpose of creation. Then, whose purpose is this purpose of creation? Before it is the purpose of Adam, it is the purpose of God. Therefore, before Adam feels happy, God has to feel happy. It has to be like this. Then, in this respect, for whom do we get married? It is for God, and for God's Will, which is the purpose of creation. God's Will is to fulfill the ideal of creation.

The ideal of creation cannot be realized centering on oneself. All my heart should unite with God who is the subject; when God moves, I should move, and when God is still, I should be still, too. We should become united internally and externally, centering on a heartistic point of unity. Therefore, unless we set up a foundation for harmonizing with God, we are not able to realize the purpose of creation.

The reason I am getting married is not only for myself but is also for my spouse. What does it mean to get married for the sake of your spouse more than yourself? As everything in the universe is formed according to the principle of subject and object, for man and woman to get married is also a rule in the universe.

If man is on the right side and woman is on the left side a horizontal relationship with the universe is formed. If man is the subject and woman is the object a vertical, upper and lower relationship with God is formed. Therefore, marriage is not for the sake of just man or woman. We should marry in order to follow the heavenly law. This is why man and woman have different aspects. They are born that way in order to match with the heavenly law.

### 3) True view of marriage

You must think that marriage is not for your sake, but for your partner. It is wrong to desire to marry a handsome or beautiful person. If you have understood the basic principle that people are to live for the sake of others, you should know that you will marry for the sake of your spouse. No matter how ugly the person may be, you should be determined to try to love him or her more than you love a beautiful person. This is the basic perspective of marriage. If you do not have an established concept that you can love your spouse more than anyone else and think of him or her as God and all humankind, you cannot be restored and enter the heavenly nation. As a man, if you cannot truly love even one woman, you will not be able to love God or humankind.

### 4) Completion of true love

The body of a human being has five senses. Man is made to feel and recognize true love through these five senses. An eye looking toward true love would be covered and intoxicated by it. How beautifully an eye shines when it is intoxicated by true love!

When a mouth is intoxicated by true love, how enraptured those smiling lips. How beautiful to see the harmony of five senses moving toward God intoxicated by true love. God alone cannot experience the joy coming from this beauty. It can be experienced only when there is a partner. This is the purpose of God's creating humankind.

If there are a beautiful man and woman who want to touch the eye, kiss the lips, or play the melody of the mind intoxicated by true love, what would God do? If there is an Eve of true love, God would have the desire to at once travel the world of her heart. God would be driven to see how deep and wide is the heart of this beautiful Eve.

God would want to travel in the world of Adam and Eve's heart, which has more beauty than the heaven and earth God created. Definitely, God would want to travel in the world of the heart of a person of true love more than He would want to travel the universe, and God would not want to depart from the world of Adam and Eve's heart of true love. After God created humankind, if God had become intoxicated by man and woman's true love, what would have happened to this world? God would have been living in man and woman, and the world which God and they created together would have been a world filled with happiness and beauty.

## B. Value and Significance of the Blessing

### 1) Value of the Blessing

What position do you have through the Blessing? The Blessing grants you the best position in the world. In the position of Blessing, with whom will you make relations? You cannot become perfect by yourself. You are perfected by the love of True Parents entirely. When a son is born from parents, whether he is handsome or not, he resembles his parents. In the same way, the Unification Church teaches about the True Parents' duty. That is the blessing of all blessings.

The place of Blessing is majestic. It is a fearful place. It cannot be reached by some transient feeling or feeble effort. Since the value of one life is greater than that of the universe, when taking

responsibility for one person's life, you must take responsibility for eternity. You must know this problem is a concern at the place of the Blessing. That is why when this time comes in one's life, everyone is happy. In order to participate in this enormous Blessing place, you must make a historical determination. The Blessing is the point of life and death.

## 2) The Reason for Receiving the Blessing

The mass wedding centering on our Unification Church is not limited to just our own church's marriage ceremony. It is the formula by which the whole of humankind will move. We must know this clearly. Then, what is the fundamental reason for receiving the Blessing? It is because our ancestors were fallen. If the human ancestors had not fallen, this work of the Blessing would not be happening. But because of the Fall, the course of restoration is required in order to return to God's sovereignty, and we must climb this way. This explains the purpose for religion and the goal of history.

Ultimately, what is the final purpose? It is to have the true family. This is the ultimate purpose for fallen humankind to discover. In order to establish the true family, true people must come. Among the true people, true man must appear first. By doing that, the true man finds the true woman and they have the holy wedding centering on God, and finally the true family is started.

## 3) Who gives the Blessing?

Adam and Eve fell from the completion level of the growth stage. In order to restore this, we must go the opposite course. Because they fell centering on the love problem, in our course of restoration and reaching our goal, we must absolutely overcome the love problem between Adam and Eve. In order to overcome the power of love centering on Satan, you must connect to God's love through the True Parents. Therefore, the descendants of the fallen parents must go the way of overcoming the fallen sovereignty by welcoming True Parents and becoming vertically one with them. You cannot overcome the fallen sovereignty by yourself. Absolutely, man and woman must become one to solve this.

The Unification Church Blessing has that meaning. Therefore, the Blessing does not happen according to your thinking. It must originate centering on the parents. Even in the fallen secular world, people have a history of getting married centering on the parents, not on themselves. It is the same in the course of the restoration. True Parents come and, through them, we finally go beyond the level at which Adam and Eve.

## 4) Significance of the Blessing

God's ideal of creation was that Adam and Eve, our first ancestors, would become husband and wife in the true love of God, mature into True Parents and establish an ideal family. However, the human ancestors fell due to illicit love and became a false couple, thus ending in a position where they gave birth to sinful children. Therefore, all human beings are descended from these false ancestors. The providence to restore this to the original ideal is the providence of restoration, and God has used different methods of separating all human beings from this false lineage into God's people, according to each age.

In the Old Testament Age, God had worked on separating His people from the false lineage through the Scripture called the Old Testament and a ceremony called circumcision. In the New Testament Age, He used the word and method called the New Testament and baptism and now, in the Age of the Second Advent centered on True Parents, God is looking after His people with the truth and ceremony called the Principle and the marriage ceremony (Blessing Ceremony).

Salvation, up to now, was a symbolic salvation, such as circumcision in the Old Testament Age or baptism in the New Testament Age, but it was not a fundamental salvation. Since it was concerning blood lineage where human ancestors went wrong, complete salvation is not realized without changing the blood lineage. That is why God has been leading the history of purifying the blood lineage through human beings' ascetic life. Therefore, Blessing means family salvation and complete salvation and is a ceremony of changing the evil blood lineage to God's good blood lineage. This signifies the realization of heaven and completes God's purpose of creation, which is the realization of the ideal world through ideal families.



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# The Blessing Offering

The Blessing Offering was established by our True Parents as a historical condition. This is a personal offering of sincerity to receive the gift of divine love, life, and lineage through the Marriage Blessing.

The standard amount that True Parents established varies by circumstance and country. The following are the standards when applying from the United States of America:

- \$2,000 *per individual* who will attend the Blessing Ceremony in the USA
- \$1,500 *per individual* who will attend the Blessing Ceremony in Korea
- \$1,000 *per individual* who will attend the Blessing Ceremony in Korea and have qualified for the Korea Travel Grant
- \$500 *per individual* who paid their Blessing offering through a previously annulled Blessing and will attend the Blessing Ceremony in the USA
- \$600 *per individual* who paid their Blessing offering through a previously annulled Blessing and will attend the Blessing Ceremony in Korea
- \$100 *per individual* who paid their Blessing offering through a previously annulled Blessing, have qualified for the Korea Travel Grant, and will attend the Blessing Ceremony in Korea
- \$2,000 *per couple* for married couples, who have joined our church, and are renewing their commitment to one another through the Blessing

One question that's often brought to our attention is, "what is this money for and how is it used?"

In response to this we have created the following detailed breakdown:

About 25% of each offering is used to cover the cost of the Blessing Ceremony. This pertains to the location where the couple is physically getting Blessed. If you are getting Blessed in Korea \$600 per person is sent to the BFD in Korea. However, if you are getting Blessed locally up to 25% of your offering is used to reimburse the local church who is hosting the event. This portion of the Blessing offering is to ensure that each Blessing event will be a beautiful celebration. Some examples of things this would cover are flowers, venue, food, photographs, and music.

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# The Blessing Offering

The remaining 75% of each Blessing offering stays in the United States with the Blessing and Family Ministry. The National BFM uses this money as its annual budget each year to invest in our Blessed families, young couples, and individuals. The following are some of the programs and ministries that are supported through the Blessing offering:

- Blessing Workshops
- The Matching Handbooks
- Parents Matching Convocations & Support Webinars
- Matching Advisor Training
- Processing Blessing applications
- Marriage enrichment education
- 24+ ministry and retreats
- Getting Back on Track ministry and retreats
- Sunday school support and education
- Ministry curriculum and resources for local pastors and ministry teams
- BFM website & newsletter

If you have any further questions regarding the Blessing offering please contact your local pastor, or email the Blessing and Family Ministry at [bfmadmin@unification.org](mailto:bfmadmin@unification.org).

# Conducting the Holy Wine Ceremony

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## Significance of the Holy Wine Ceremony

- a) It is an indemnity condition by which human beings who were born from Satan's world are re-born by True Parents. In this ceremony, women go through an internal process of being restored first, since they fell first. Then give birth to men again. (True Parents give birth to women spiritually and men are born spiritually through the women.)
- b) It cleanses the original sin and allows people to become God's children. The Holy Wine ceremony is a diverging point of good and evil and a line where God's and Satan's crossroads are decided and life and death are divided. The condition to become the first Israel was circumcision, and the condition to become the second Israel was baptism. The condition to become the third Israel is the Holy Wine ceremony.
- c) Adam and Eve were supposed to become husband and wife respectively and love each other centered on God, but the order of love which God created was reversed centered on Satan. The Holy Wine ceremony restores the order of love to its original state.
- d) It is a ceremony by which people can receive a new blood lineage centered on God, cleanse their original sin and change their fallen body, centered on God.

## Content and Value of Holy Wine

The holy wine is made up of 21 ingredients representing all things and levels. It has an ingredient that symbolizes parents' love and an ingredient that symbolizes blood. Accordingly, when you drink the holy wine, you become one body with parents' love and one body with parents' blood. The holy wine is also made from ingredients that symbolize the earth, the seas, and heaven, thus it symbolizes the whole cosmos. The holy wine also contains three kinds of alcohol. Besides that, it has an ingredient which symbolizes all things. The holy wine contains all the essential elements of things which are without Satan's accusation. By drinking the holy wine, one is being reborn spiritually and physically.

The holy wine symbolically contains the wine of love, the wine of the husband, and the milk of mother. It represents the water of life, the blood of parents, the manifestation of all glory, and the love of bridegroom and bride, and it contains in it the life force of the Heavenly Parent.

If this ceremony did not exist, original sin could not be removed and the lineage could not be converted. Without converting the blood lineage, one cannot become one body with God's love

by passing through the standard of perfection. Through drinking the holy wine one receives the substance of the Heavenly Parent's heart, blood lineage and life force.

The physical act of drinking a cup of holy wine in and of itself is not the important part. What makes the act significant is that it takes place on the foundation of the victorious conditions made by True Parents, which make it possible for humankind to cut off from the blood lineage of the Satanic world and hereditary sin - the sin of one's ancestors.

## **Order of the Ceremony**

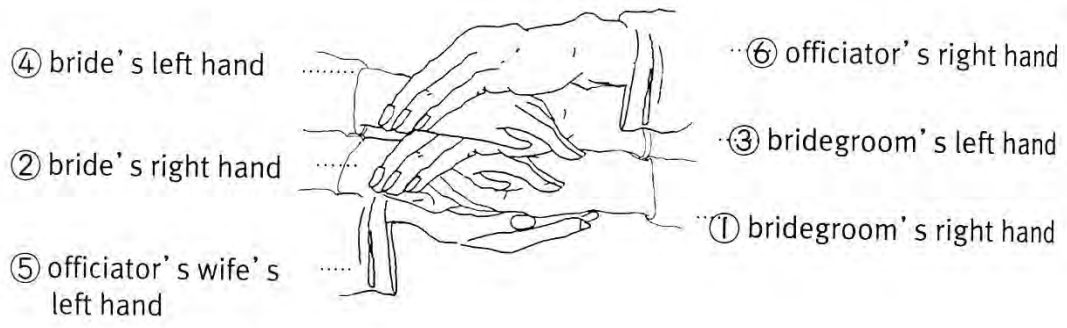
- Hymn
- Prayer
- Reading of True Father's words on Holy Wine Ceremony
- Explanation and guidance on Holy Wine Ceremony
- Holy Wine Ceremony
- Sanctification Prayer

## **Process of Holy Wine Exchange**

- a. Holy Wine participants bow to the officiating couple of the Holy Wine (HW) Ceremony in the position of True Parents.
- b. Wife of the officiating couple (representing True Mother) gives the HW cup to her husband (representing True Father).
- c. Husband of the officiating couple gives HW cup to the bride. The bride bows part way from the waist, receives the cup with two hands, drinks half of the HW, then turns and gives the rest to her bridegroom.
- d. The bridegroom bows part way from the waist to his bride, receives the cup with two hands, drinks the remaining HW, and then gives it back to his bride with a bow.
- e. Bride receives the empty HW cup (2 hands) with a bow, turns and with a bow gives the cup to the HW officiating husband.
- f. Finally, the officiating husband gives the empty HW cup to his wife, who places it in the tray.

## **Position of Hands during the Sanctification Prayer**

1. Bridegroom opens his right hand with his palm up.
2. Bride covers her bridegroom's right palm with her right palm from above.
3. Bridegroom covers the back of his bride's right hand with his left palm above.
4. Bride covers the back of her bridegroom's left hand with her left palm from above.
5. After the officiator wife of the Holy Wine Ceremony (representing True Mother) covers the back of the bridegroom's right hand with her left palm, the officiator husband (representing True Father) covers the back of the bride's left hand with his right palm.



# How-to Conduct the Chastening (Indemnity Stick) Ceremony

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## A. Ceremony Outline

- Holy Song
- Prayer
- Reading of True Father's words concerning the ceremony
- Pastor's explanation and guidance concerning Indemnity Stick Ceremony
- Couple carry out the ceremony

## B. Reading of True Father's Sermon concerning the Indemnity Stick Ceremony

- 1) Then, where does the true blood lineage have to come from? Can it come from his mother's belly? Where it was rooted in? I think it must be rooted in the seed of completion. If the seed had been born in the belly of an original mother who had not fallen, we would not need the restoration of the elder son-ship. Since the first son of Adam belonged to Satan, God must go the way of indemnity centering on the second son, who belonged to God.
- 2) Even at the time of Jacob, God blessed him only after He had the angel hit his hipbone in order to raise up the Israelites. Therefore, when the Israelites made an important pledge, they put their hand on their hipbone. Since the beginning of history, men and women have come to bear a grudge against each other because of the misuse of their hipbones. Therefore, without solving this resentment, man and woman cannot stand as a couple of original nature.

## C. Significance of Indemnity Stick Ceremony

- 1) The fall arose because of the wrong use of the hips. Therefore, to establish a condition to restore this through indemnity, there is the Indemnity Stick Ceremony. With the husband and wife hitting each other in the position representing God, the ceremony grants them indemnity toward their past mistakes, in both body and mind.
- 2) Three strikes symbolize the restoration through indemnity of the three orderly stages (formation, growth and perfection) and the three ages (the Old Testament, New Testament and Completed Testament (Second Advent)).

- 3) This ceremony is held in order for husbands (representing Adam) and wives (representing Eve) to restore their mistakes through indemnity and pledge a happy life as an eternal couple in front of God, True Parents and senior and fellow couples.

#### **D. Ceremony Procedure for the Couple**

- 1) The couple bows to God and True Parents
- 2) The husband strikes his wife on the fleshiest part of the buttocks three times
- 3) The wife strikes her husband on the fleshiest part of the buttocks three times
- 4) The couple bow to each other

# 40-days Holy Separation Period Guidance

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## True Father's Words

After this ceremony, your couple needs to complete the 40-day holy separation period. This period is equivalent to 40 years. It is worth 40 years of True Father's lifetime. You must conquer the number 40.

You have received the Messiah after 4,000 years in the course of restoration. You have received the Second Coming Messiah after 4,000 years from Jacob. It must get over the number of 4,000 years. Therefore, we must get over the number of 40 in a flying jump from now. Jesus must be married at the age of 40. It is right, based on the Divine Principle.

You must indemnify everything from here. You must indemnify centering on True Love. After you go beyond the number 40, you can inherit the true love of God. Then you can freely love each other as husband and wife. It is to indemnify the history of 4,000 years.

The period of 4,000 years from Adam to Jesus was the recovery period of True Love. As was the period of 4,000 years from Jacob to the Second Coming Messiah.

These periods were to find an ideal couple. Therefore, the 40 days is to make a condition of indemnity. Your couple (husband and wife) must not have sexual relations during the 40 days. You will start your sexual relations after the 40 days.

During this period, your couple must pray for the will of God and the nation of God. You can discover your true self, separate evil spirits that are constantly trying to bring you pain and misfortune, and improve your relationship with your spouse.

## Significance of the 40-Days Holy Separation Period

- a) The 40-days period is to indemnify the 40-years of public life before the holy wedding of Jesus and True Parents
- b) The period is to indemnify the 4,000-years after Jacob to Second Coming Messiah.
- c) The period is to pray for receiving the True Love of God before you can receive the True Love of your couple.
- d) The period is to pray while your couple (husband and wife) maintains the holy separation centering on the will of God for a public purpose.