

About the Blessing Conditions

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A personal reflection

I have heard people wonder, “Why is it that married couples have it easy compared to single Unificationists when it comes to receiving the Blessing?” You probably have heard someone wondering like this. Not long ago, I found myself wondering the same thing, “Why are the conditions to receive the Blessing lighter for married couples seeking the Blessing than they are for single candidates?”

The truth is that single candidates, whether they are First Generation, Jacob Generation, Second Generation, Third Generation, or non-Unificationists, face similar conditions. For instance, at the writing of this article, single candidates, regardless of their categorization or generation, have to be sexually pure for at least one year to qualify for the Blessing. Married couples don’t have to. *Why the difference?* I wondered to myself. *Church members have lived a life of sacrifice for God and True Parents throughout their church life. Non-Unificationists haven’t. How come married couples don’t have to abstain from any sexual activity for at least a year?*

The difference between single Unificationists and married couples, as pertaining to the Blessing conditions, is that single Unificationists establish the foundation of faith before receiving the Blessing. Single non-Unificationists as well are required to establish some level of foundation of faith before receiving the Blessing. By contrast, married couples come to the Blessing on the foundation of their having established a foundation of substance through their marriage.

One who has studied the ***Divine Principle*** knows what the sin of Adam and Eve was in the Garden of Eden. It is clear in the Bible that Adam and Eve were single when they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And that, according to the teachings of our Movement, they were supposed to become husband and wife upon God’s blessing. For God to bless their union, consequently give them carte blanche to start family life, Adam and Eve were supposed to remain pure by observing God’s commandment. In other words, Adam and Eve were supposed to establish a

foundation of faith that would have constituted the platform upon which to establish their foundation of substance after having God's blessing in marriage.

It is clear that by Adam and Eve becoming husband and wife as they did, they disobeyed God's commandment and forsook the time they spent in the Garden of Eden, when they were following the track of the principle—the original course that was supposed to lead them to perfection.

What the Blessing does is give each and every human being the platform and opportunity upon which to restore the mistake of Adam and Eve and contribute to the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth. This restoration has two aspects. The first aspect is the restoration of the reality of single Adam and Eve. The Adam and Eve prior to the Fall. The Adam and Eve who were at the center of God's ideal of creation. The Adam and Eve who were to observe the commandment of God for a given time period. This is the reality that single individuals who become Blessing candidates restore. These single candidates stand at the center of the realization of God's ideal representing single Adam and Eve—*central figures*. They are also responsible to maintain their purity thus restoring the disobedience of Adam and Eve to God's commandment—*required offering or object for the condition*. They are supposed to do this until they receive the Blessing—*mathematical/numerical period of indemnity*.¹ This is what single Blessing candidates do. Before the Blessing, they symbolically restore the original course that Adam and Eve were to walk to perfection—the track of the principle. And after the Blessing, they embark on the journey to substantially realize God's ideal as new Adams and new Eves.

By contrast, married couples restore the second aspect, which is the restoration of the reality of married Adam and Eve. The Adam and Eve after the Fall. The Adam and Eve who were to return to God as husband and wife. The Adam and Eve who were to offer their relationship to God. The Adam and Eve who were to connect their lineage to God through a new foundation that would have been established by the Messiah had there been one in their lifetime. This is the reality that married couples who go to the Blessing restore. In the positions of married Adam and Eve, these

¹ Note that this article is pertaining to conditions established before the Blessing; not life lived after the Blessing. Of course, everyone who receives the Blessing is supposed to maintain a God-centered lifestyle after the Blessing.

married couples stand in the position to connect their relationships and lineages to God on the new foundation established by the True Parents through the Blessing.

Representing married Adam and Eve, these married couples (as *central figures* of their foundation of substance) stand at the center of their foundations of substance (i.e., their marriages) in the realization of God's ideal through the Blessing. Standing as central figures, both husband and wife are responsible to establish the foundation of faith (as a couple) by demonstrating faith in the True Parents and in the ideal of the Blessing—*required offering or object for the condition*. They are also supposed to do this throughout their blessed life—*mathematical/numerical period of indemnity*. This is what married couples do. They substantially restore the restoration course that Adam and Eve were supposed to walk to perfection if the foundation for the Messiah was established during their lifetime—the track of the principle of restoration. In other words, they embark on the journey to substantially realize God's ideal as renewed Adams and renewed Eves.

To summarize, the difference between single Blessing candidates and married Blessing candidates is that single candidates establish the foundation for the Blessing predominantly on the outcome of their lives as celibates, which is a life of an individual who relates to the truth. Their demonstration of faith prior to the Blessing constitutes the basis of their conditions for the Blessing. By contrast, married couples do so predominantly on the outcome of their relational lives as husbands and wives, which is a life of two interconnected individuals who are to strive to connect their horizontal relationship to the truth. Their demonstration of attendance prior to the Blessing constitutes the basis of their conditions for the Blessing. In any case, regardless of what they bring to the table, each category—First Generation, Jacob Generation, Second Generation, Third Generation, non-Unificationists, or married couples—ought to successfully complete the foundation upon which to realize the ideal of the Blessing by successfully establishing both the foundation of faith and the foundation of substance.

Though it may appear as if married couples don't have much to deal with when it comes to receiving the Blessing, they might still have a big burden to carry in fulfilling the ideal of the Blessing. We all have a big burden to carry, regardless of whether we received the Blessing as singles or as previously married couples.