

Eighteenth Commencement Address

**"Create Your Ideal Family  
to Save the World"**

by

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Distinguished guests, parents, graduates, alumni, administration, faculty, staff, ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to the 18th graduation exercises of the Unification Theological Seminary, where we have gathered to honor thirty-two youthful and promising graduates of the class of 1994.

My message to you who are graduating today is simple yet very important: Create an exemplary family following the tradition of the family of True Parents in order to solve the problems in America and in the world.

As you know, today's world is full of many difficult problems such as juvenile delinquency, drugs, crime, poverty, free sex, child abuse, divorce, racism and war. I believe that all such problems can be attributed to the problem of the family. For if the parent has a problem, the child will naturally imitate it, bringing it to society when the child becomes an adult. The problem of the family consists in abnormal or unhealthy relationships among its members, and this results in abnormal or unhealthy relationships within society. Hence come the above-mentioned various problems in the nation and in the world.

In many cases, abnormal or unhealthy relationships within the family consist in incest, involving unnatural sexual relations among its members. This destroys a healthy

standard of the family, leading its members eventually to free sex and immorality in their social lives. A natural outcome of this is destructive human relationships throughout society and the world. In this sense, the responsibility of the family is very important and far-reaching. The family has a decisive influence on the world.

The influence of the mother is especially far-reaching because the child in its younger years is more influenced by the mother than by the father. Here in America, do we have many unselfish mothers who can influence their children in a positive way? Again, are there filial children in America who can follow the examples of their mothers who are good?

If the family has a high moral standard, the world will be an ideal world. This is the reason why I am saying: Create an exemplary family in order to solve the problems of the world.

But did Christianity create exemplary families which helped to build an ideal world? No. Look at the present situation of Christendom. Doesn't it have a lot of serious problems yet to be resolved? Even after the demise of Communism, it seems that those problems are becoming more and more serious. Newspapers are full of articles on the immoral conduct of clergy as well as on premarital and extramarital affairs and homosexual marriages in Christian society. It seems that Christianity is

totally incapable of handling these problems, in spite of Jesus Christ's original moral teachings 2,000 years ago. Although there are numerous Christian evangelists today, their messages usually promote selfish and materialistic desires, thus being unable to serve the whole purpose of saving the nation and the world.

I founded the Unification Theological Seminary in 1975 in order to revitalize Christianity and save this nation and the world. Therefore, UTS graduates must rise up to do what Christianity could not do, i.e., create ideal families for the building of God's kingdom on earth. I want to say this especially to this year's graduates because this is the second year after the inauguration of the Completed Testament Age.

Originally, Adam and Eve as the original human ancestors were expected to create a God-centered ideal family without falling. Unfortunately, however, they failed to do so, with the result that the fallen world came about. In order to make up for the mistake of Adam and Eve, Jesus came 2,000 years ago and tried to establish his own ideal family. But he was rejected and killed by the chosen nation of Israel. Thus he could not establish an ideal family. This is the very reason why Christianity has not been able to create exemplary families for the building of the ideal world, in spite of Jesus' tremendous efforts to fulfill God's will.

In order to carry out Jesus' original mission, True Parents stand firm now. In

spite of severe persecution and misunderstanding from the world and especially from Christianity the last 40 years, I always lived up to the spirit of forgiveness, love, patience and sacrifice. I totally invested myself to embrace my enemies to testify to the real power of God as His filial son. On this foundation, I created an unbreakable God-centered family. In order to create an ideal family, one must live for the sake of other members of the family and then the family as a whole must have the same spirit to live for the sake of the world. Were you ever committed to living for the sake of your parents, your spouse and your children unconditionally? Were you also ever committed as a family person to living for the sake of the world unconditionally? True Parents have already reached that level, establishing an unbreakable tradition for God-centered families which we call blessed families.

As UTS graduates, you have a very important mission of restoring this world. In order to restore this world, you must create your own blessed family which is an example to other families in this world. In order to create your own ideal family, you must know the tradition of True Parents' family. May God's grace be with you as you embark upon your new missions. Thank you.