

Conclusion

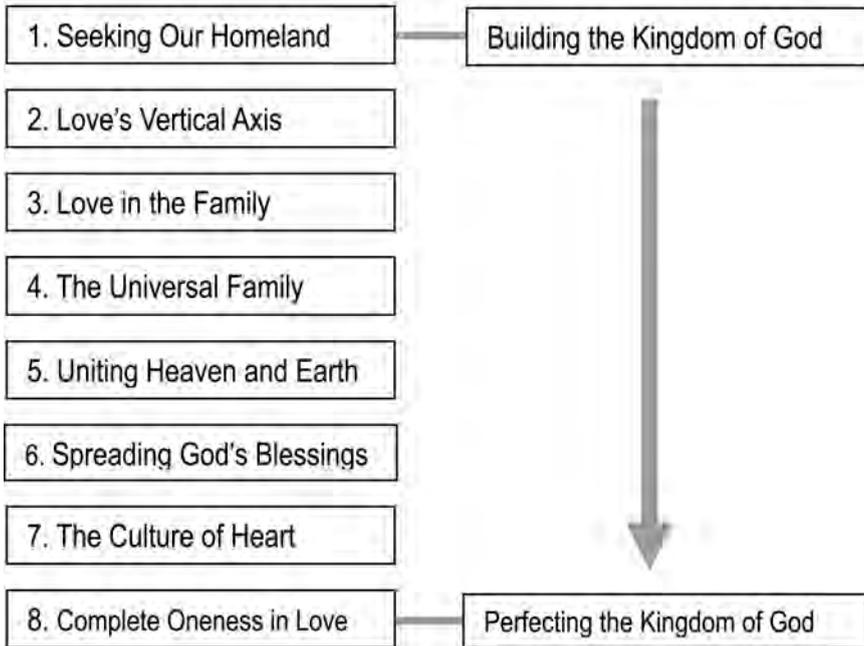
Blueprint for the Kingdom of Heaven

THE EIGHT PLEDGES OF THE FAMILY PLEDGE are a blueprint for families seeking to establish the Kingdom of God in their homes and communities. Proceeding with orderly logic from the first pledge to the eighth, they describe the ways a true family is formed and grows into the fullness of life with God. In this final chapter, let us take a global view of the Family Pledge and examine what it tells us about true family values. We shall do this by looking four themes: first, the Kingdom of God; second, true love; third, the original responsibilities of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; and finally, the family as the temple of God.

A Stepwise Process

The Kingdom of God is the beginning and the end of the Family Pledge. This should not be surprising, given that Father Moon teaches that the family is the cornerstone of the Kingdom. Each family, reflecting the true love of God, is a building block and miniature of the Kingdom. In the Kingdom of God, God conveys His love to human beings through the relationships among family members.

The first pledge calls us to “build *the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven,*” while in the eighth pledge we “perfect the realm of liberation and complete freedom in *the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven.*” The repetition of “Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven,” indicates that the process that began with the first pledge is completed in the eighth pledge. Each pledge is a step along the way from the announcement of the Kingdom to the realization of the Kingdom. (Figure 15)

FIGURE 15: STEPWISE PROCESS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The first pledge declares the family's intention to seek the Kingdom, which it calls the "original homeland." Each family strives to lift up the environment of its hometown, making it a place where godly families can feel at home and supported by the community's good values. They seek to re-create it in the likeness of Eden from which the original family of Adam and Eve was expelled so long ago.

The second and third pledges describe the qualities of a true family, the characteristics that make it fit to enter the Kingdom. Among the qualities of a true family, the foremost is love: vertically expressed in devoted service to parents, the community, the nation, the world and God, and horizontally expressed in the close family relationships within the home.

In the Kingdom of God, the family is not limited to one's immediate family and kin. The fourth and fifth pledges describe a true family's participation in the universal family encompassing all humanity, not only the living but also the souls that have crossed over into the eternal spirit world.

The spirit and practice of Kingdom-building is described in the sixth and seventh pledges. Families take the lead in these activities by spreading God's blessings—especially the marriage Blessing of family renewal—throughout their communities. Thus they act as conduits for God's grace to flow everywhere and to everyone. As more and more people are raised in Blessed families, where they develop the habit and tradition of living for the sake of others, the Kingdom culture, the “culture of heart,” will develop as a social ethos. In the culture of heart, true love is prized above all. People are naturally giving; they freely share from their deepest hearts, not for self-seeking motives but out of genuine love.

The eighth pledge illuminates the final goal. The Kingdom appears in all its glory, filled with its sparkling jewels—true families. The light of their true love fills the Kingdom, leaving no shadows or impediments. It is a time of fulfillment, when all creation rejoices in “the glorious liberty of the children of God.” (Rom. 8:21).

True Love: The Backbone of True Family Values

A true family exists and thrives only by centering on true love. It expands its influence to the world through true love. It forms the Kingdom of God with true love. Father Moon's motto for the year 2000 caught this concept well: “The Cosmic Expansion of True Love is the Perfection of the New Millennial Kingdom.” In this light, we can understand why each of the eight pledges in the Family Pledge ends with the words, “by centering on true love.”

Figure 16 uses the image of a fish to illustrate the centrality of true love in a true family. If true love is likened to the backbone, then the many ribs and muscles extending from the backbone represent the different aspects of family life. The backbone contains the spinal cord, the central nerve coordinating the movement of all the parts. Even so, true love is the motivation and moving power for fulfilling each of a family's responsibilities. The tail of the fish sweeps through the water propelling the fish forward. In like manner, the latter clauses of the Family Pledge call for activities that propel the family to greater levels of accomplishment for God's Kingdom. True love, traveling faster than the speed of light, provides the balance and power enabling the family to reach the highest goal.

FIGURE 16: TRUE LOVE – MOTIVATION AND POWER OF THE FAMILY PLEDGE



Becoming a “Genesis 1:28 Family”

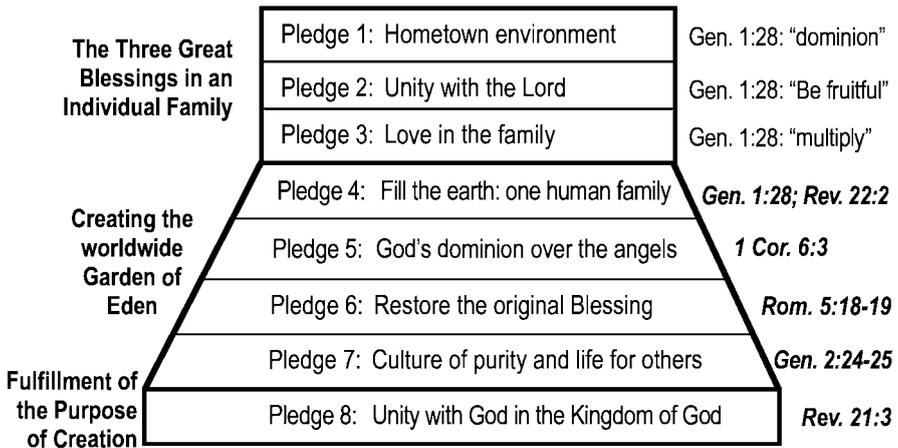
In Genesis 1:28, God gave His original blessing to Adam and Eve, telling them to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion...” In Gen. 2:24, God enjoins marriage: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.” The first chapters of Genesis hint at God’s original pattern for a true family. Adam and Eve were meant to form such a true family had they not fallen.

The Family Pledge shows the way to become a true family, a “Genesis 1:28 family.” Each pledge of the Family Pledge gives instructions for molding the family into the ideal shape that conforms to the original plan of God. The Family Pledge is the Potter’s way to mold each family into a “vessel for honor” (Rom. 9:21) that can contain God’s abundant grace. (Figure 17)

The Three Original Blessings in Genesis 1:28

The Divine Principle explicates the meaning of Genesis 1:28 as containing God’s Three Great Blessings.¹ The first of these is to “be fruitful,” which means to attain mature and perfect unity with God; as Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) The second, “multiply,” means to join as a loving husband and wife and raise children in the love of God. The third blessing, “dominion,” means to be the stewards of God’s creation and to express creativity in shaping the world.

God gave human beings these words of blessing to indicate the purposes for which they were created. These purposes are innate to human nature. Hence, people have them as inborn desires: to seek a true relationship with God; to seek love and a partner to marry and cherish forever; and to exercise creativity and mastery in order to create a pleasant, abundant and artistic living environment.

FIGURE 17: THE GENESIS 1:28 FAMILY

The first three pledges of the Family Pledge are about fulfilling these three original blessings. As our family pledges and then fulfills its pledge to "establish the original ideal of creation" (Pledge 1), it is working to realize the Third Blessing of "dominion." It is re-creating its hometown environment into a new Eden where it can settle in peace and harmony.

The second pledge is about perfecting the First Blessing, to "be fruitful." Scripture teaches that the path to attaining complete communion with God requires dedication to the will of God: "For the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry... till we all come... to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:12-13) Accordingly, when a family acts to "represent and become central to Heaven and Earth by attending God and True Parents," it is establishing the vertical axis of unity with the Lord.

Furthermore, the members of a Genesis 1:28 family are children of God. The Family Pledge describes the pattern of our relationship to God—the dutiful family way—as beginning with the family role of filial children. We perfect this pattern by stages, beginning with serving our parents, extending to helping our community, and reaching to God in the highest: "We will perfect the dutiful family way of filial piety in our family, patriotism in our nations... and divine sons and daughters of God."

The third pledge is about perfecting the second blessing, to “multiply.” This is not merely about finding a mate and producing offspring. In God’s design, love in the human family is comprehensive and moves in all dimensions—between husband and wife, between parents and children, and among brothers and sisters. Most importantly, God Himself participates in that love. The Family Pledge gives a clear blueprint through the concept of the “Four Great Realms of Heart” Moreover, in God’s design, a Genesis 1:28 Family extends through three generations living together—the modern nuclear family is not ideal. The Family Pledge speaks to the traditions and interplay of authority and respect in the three-generation family through the concept of the “Three Great Kingships.”

Expansion of a True Family

The first three pledges pertain to the three original blessings in the context of an individual family. However, true family values do not stop at home. True families are meant to multiply and create a world of true love. Though Adam and Eve were born in a special garden spot, God intended that their descendants would spread out and made the entire world into a Garden of Eden. People naturally spread their influence wherever they live. As Confucius said, “It is goodness that gives to a neighborhood its beauty.”² Unfortunately, after Adam and Eve fell, they spread abroad a world of evil and sin.

Therefore, the Family Pledge defines the family life of a Genesis 1:28 family within a holistic view that extends to the entire cosmos. The family’s values, first displayed at home, should also characterize its role in the larger society, in the culture, and even in relation to the spirit world. This is the import of Pledges 4 through 7.

Had Adam and Eve not fallen, they would have received God’s Blessing on their marriage and multiplied children within the Garden. Their descendants, living in Eden, would have enjoyed and practiced the love of God. As they multiplied and spread abroad, the descendants of Adam and Eve would have formed one worldwide family in which all people would regard each other warmly as brothers and sisters. This goal for Genesis 1:28 families is stated in the fourth pledge: a “world of freedom, peace, unity and happiness.”

The Bible indirectly hints at this greater purpose for Adam and Eve's family through the symbol of the tree of life, which appears in Genesis and again in Revelation. What is the qualification to partake of the tree of life? "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14) Had Adam and Eve obeyed God's commandment not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they surely would have been qualified to eat of the tree of life. Then they would have remained in Eden, enjoying its fruits, just as the saints of the last days will enjoy the fruits of the tree of life in the New Jerusalem. "In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." (Rev. 22:2) Here the love of Christ, symbolized by the tree of life, brings healing to the nations. In the love of Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek." (Gal. 3:28) It encompasses the entire family of humankind.

The scope of a Genesis 1:28 family also extends to the spirit world. Before they fell, Adam and Eve related freely with angels, including Lucifer. Yet they did not recognize their responsibility to judge the angels (1 Cor. 6:3), and instead allowed themselves to be dominated by them. God expected Adam and Eve to obey the commandment not to eat of the fruit, and thereby to establish their moral subjectivity over the angel, who was appealing to them to disobey it. Had they kept the word of God and resisted the angel's temptation, they would have "advanced the unification of the spirit world and the physical world" in the manner called for in the fifth pledge.

All unification must be centered on God. Therefore, as we fulfill the fifth pledge, we are judging evil spirits and exercising leadership to bring the entire spirit world in line with God's will. Suppose Adam and Eve had successfully resisted Lucifer's temptation, what would have become of him? He would not have become Satan. Rather, by humbling himself before human beings, his masters, Lucifer also could have participated in the cosmic unity.

The sixth pledge is about spreading God's blessing. All original, Genesis 1:28 families possess a deep heartfelt desire to share God's blessings with others. The Bible teaches that Adam's sin caused ruin and corruption to come upon all people. Conversely, since Jesus came as the second Adam, he offers salvation and grace to all people: "As one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous." (Rom. 5:18-19) True families represent God and True Parents, according to Pledge 6; therefore, they stand in the position that Jesus did, as new Adams and Eves. As Jesus offered the gift of grace to all people, true families should spread God's blessings to all the people in their communities.

The seventh pledge calls families to practice "living for the sake of others" and thus to "perfect the world based on the culture of heart." Surely one of humanity's greatest losses due to the fall has been our ignorance about the true way of life—a culture expressing the heart of God's true love. Examining Adam and Eve's life in Eden, we can barely get a glimpse of the culture of heart as God intended it. First, it was to be a culture of pure lineage, as Adam and Eve were to be "one flesh." (Gen. 2:24) Second, it was to be a culture of purity, as Adam and Eve "were both naked, and were not ashamed." (Gen. 2:25) Third, it was to be a culture of living together with God, as evidenced from God's vain attempts to engage in heart-to-heart discussion with them after they fell. (Gen. 3:8-13) Fourth, it was to be a culture of living for the sake of others, an example set by God in making clothes of skins even for the guilty couple. (Gen. 3:21) The seventh pledge makes it plain that Genesis 1:28 families should practice such a lifestyle and create such a culture.

The Destiny of a True Family

The eighth pledge describes the destiny of every true family: to live united with God in the Kingdom of God. Isaiah prophesied of a world where peace and harmony would prevail and "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God." (Isa. 11:9) The New Jerusalem prophesied in the book of Revelation will be a place where "the dwelling of God is with men." (Rev. 21:3) In the first Garden of

Eden, God was not the one who withdrew His fellowship from Adam; rather it was Adam and his wife, plagued by a guilty conscience, who hid from God. (Gen. 3:8) The way for Adam to unite with God would have been through obedience to God's commandment not to eat the fruit, based on faith in God's beneficence.

Accordingly, Pledge 8 calls for Genesis 1:28 families to live with "absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience" as their path to oneness with God. Father Moon teaches that the problem of disunity with God lies entirely with human beings. Ever since the days of Adam and Eve, humans have betrayed God. God, our Parent, is always reaching out with love, but we as God's children are still plagued with doubts and caught up in selfish and evil actions. Father Moon proclaimed that we are destined to live in complete oneness with God, and it is up to all true families to fulfill that destiny:

The relationship between God and us is that of parent and child. This parent-child relationship is one of absolute destiny. Only the children can resolve all the anguish and problems of the Parent; it is the children's responsibility. There must never again be disbelief and betrayal in a family that has been registered. We, as children, must have harmonious unity with God, our Parent.³

The Family as a Temple of God

Each true family is a temple of God. Solomon built a temple made of stone, but as Stephen said, "The Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool...'" (Acts 7:48-50) Scripture asserts that each individual is a temple of God, as Paul said, "You are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you." (1 Cor. 3:16) When believers come together to worship, they constitute a fitting habitation for God, for "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20) Peter regarded believers as "living stones... built into a spiritual house. (1 Pet. 2:5) The true family values perspective is that God is pleased to dwell in each of our family temples.

Furthermore, the whole of humankind was created to live as one great family, encompassing all the families on earth and in the spirit world. When we break down the barriers that have fractured the human family, then the entire universe will become in one great cosmic family in reality. It will be the holy cosmic temple of God: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.” (Rev. 21:3)

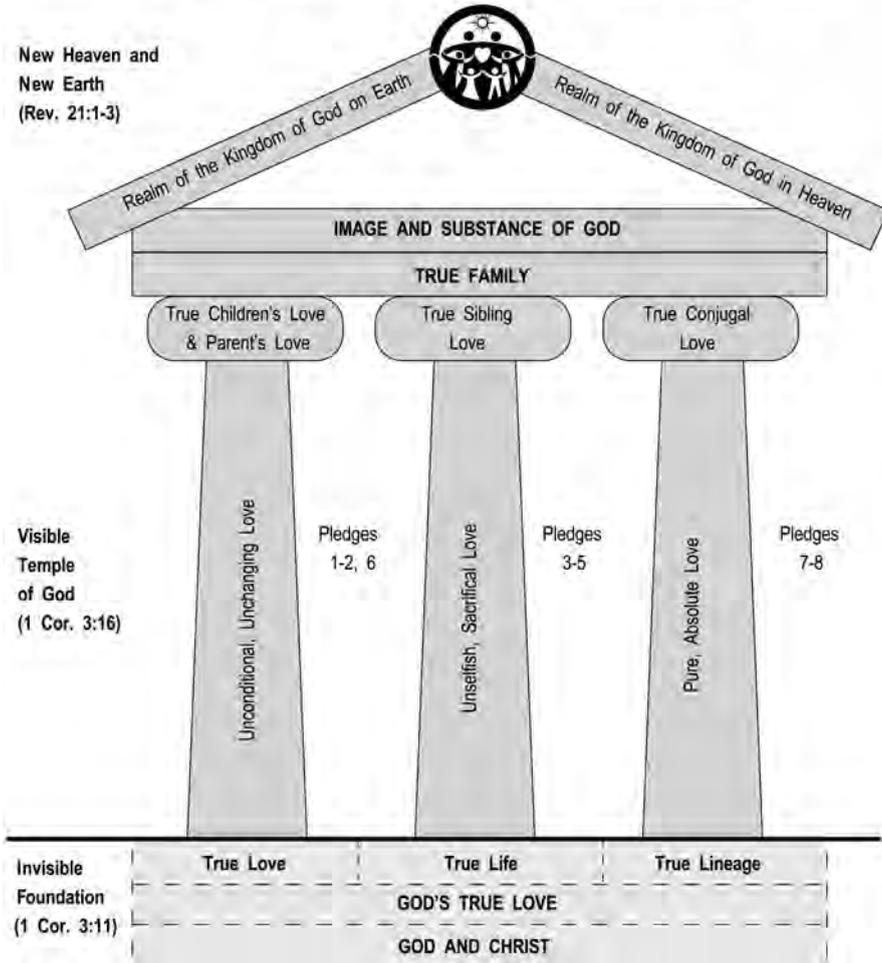
Figure 18 illustrates the structure of each true family and the universal family as a temple of God. Let’s examine the design of the temple, beginning from the foundation.

The Foundation of God’s Love, Life and Lineage

Jesus said that a wise builder builds his house upon a rock, not on shifting sand. (Matt. 7:24-27) God is the Rock of Israel. (Deut. 32:4; Psalm 19:4) Christ is called the rock (1 Cor. 10:4) and the cornerstone. (1 Pet. 2:6-7) No place is suitable for the family’s foundation other than the bedrock foundation of God and Christ. “For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:11) Jesus said, speaking of himself: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19) In erecting the temple of God that is the true family, we begin from God and Christ.

The second level of the foundation is God’s true love. Look at the temple of nature, of which God said, “Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool.” (Isa. 66:1) The motivating power behind God’s creation of the universe was true love. God’s purpose in creating the planet Earth and the human beings upon it was and is to find the objects He could love. All things exist in pairs; this is more evidence that God created the temple of nature with love as its theme. With true love God purposed it, with true love God labored to create it, and with true love God has struggled to redeem it and restore it. Likewise, every labor in building our families as temples of God should be done with true love. Each pledge in the Family Pledge calls families to this fundamental orientation, “centering on true love.”

FIGURE 18: THE FAMILY AS GOD’S TEMPLE



The final level of the foundation is true love, true life and true lineage. Love, life and lineage are the invisible core of holiness, linking all people to the divine Source. When the apostle Paul visited Athens and spoke on the Areopagus (Acts 17:22-31), he contrasted the “temples made with hands” that dotted that Greek city with God’s proper habitation. First, God is the subject of love, drawing all people to Himself: “that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might... find him.” Second, God is at the source of life: “He gives to all life, breath and all things.” Third, God is the

source of true lineage: “We are the offspring of God.” Paul reminded the Athenians that God created humankind to be all of “one blood,” signaling that all the nations of the world have one divine Source.

The human fall destroyed God’s foundation for the family. Adam and Eve cobbled together the cracked and crumbling foundation of Satan’s love, life and lineage upon which to set up their family. Satan’s love began with rebellion against God, deception and adultery. The fruits of Satan’s love are manifest in Cain’s murder of Abel and in cultures that justify selfishness and glorify conflict as the normal way of life. These evil qualities have been passed down through the lineage to all human beings, creating a world of evil, suffering and sorrow that broke God’s heart.

In the midst of such wretchedness, God instructed Moses and Solomon about building a temple to His glory in order to make a clear distinction between God’s world and the profane world. There would be clear boundaries separating those who could be admitted to the temple’s holy courts. Foremost among them was lineage: only Israelites were permitted within the walls, and only priests of the lineage of Aaron could enter the sanctuary proper. Second, Israelites needed to demonstrate right living, as the Psalmist wrote:

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
 Who may stand in his holy place?
 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
 who does not lift up his soul to an idol
 or swear by what is false.

—*Ps. 24:3-4*

Third, right love was necessary for proper worship at the Temple. Jesus said that before making an offering the worshipper should “first be reconciled to your brother.” (Matt. 5:23-24) Moreover, the prophet Malachi chastised those priests who betrayed love, declaring that their offerings would not be accepted:

You cover the LORD’S altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor at your hand. You ask, ‘Why does he not?’ Because the LORD was witness to the covenant between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless.

—*Mal. 2:13-14*

Jesus Christ came as the incarnation of God and the temple of God. Through Christ, we are lifted beyond the need for a building of stone and wood. In our persons, we can be the temples in which God can be pleased to dwell, the “living stones... being built up a spiritual house,” as Peter termed it. This means that God’s love, God’s life, and God’s lineage are available to us. In Jesus Christ we are born again into God’s “incorruptible seed”—true lineage—that we might “love one another fervently with a pure heart”—true love—“laying aside all malice” and leading new lives “as newborn babes”—true life. (1 Pet. 1:22-2:5)

True families are erected as temples of God upon these three invisible foundations: God and Christ, God’s true love, and true love, life and lineage. God and Christ are the first foundation of a true family. God’s true love is the source and power behind true love in a true family. True love, true life and true lineage are the invisible threads linking human existence to God’s existence and to His will for a true family. True families—as the temples of God and the “living stones” of the Kingdom of God—are erected upon this firm foundation.

The Pillars of Family Love

A true family is God’s visible temple (1 Cor. 3:16), where God’s divine nature becomes manifest. The substance of a true family consists of the qualities of God’s love that flows among its members. Children’s love, sibling love, conjugal love and parental love—these are the pillars of the family temple. By combining children’s love and parental love we can describe three pillars, each expressing a different quality of God’s love, each erected on one of the three invisible foundations of true love, true life and true lineage. The Family Pledge guides us in erecting these pillars as we develop and practice these loves.

In the family, a parent’s love for his or her children bears the closest resemblance to God’s love. God is our Parent; we are God’s children. God’s parental love is unconditional and unchanging; our response as God’s children is expressed as faithfulness, devotion and gratitude. The parent who experiences the joys and disappointments of child-rearing can know God’s heart to a degree unavailable to those who have not been parents. Conversely, a child’s love is the

most responsive love; a child learns love directly from her parents' example. Through her parents, the child forms her first image of God, one that can color her faith for a lifetime. Thus, the circuit of parent's love and children's love form the first pillar of the family temple, manifesting God's true love.

The first two pledges are about developing the child's side of this pillar. Pledge 1 calls us to respond wholeheartedly to God's providence to find our original homeland, and Pledge 2 calls us to offer filial devotion to God and to our parents. Both of these pledges develop our family's ability to return love in response to God's parental love and to become God's true sons and daughters. The complete fulfillment of God's parental love is depicted in Pledge 6, when our family comes to embody God and True Parents in its own right and realize the fullness of true parental love.

Unselfish, sacrificial love for others is the second pillar of the family temple. God's true life is characterized by continual investment and sacrifice. This tradition is first learned in the family: living for the sake of others. Relations among brothers and sisters in the family are the training ground for loving all people, investing and giving for their benefit. In this regard, Pledge 3 teaches about forming the intimate bonds of a true family; Pledge 4 extends those relationships to the wider family of humankind, and Pledge 5 promotes the unity of the human family into the spirit world. God's way of life becomes our family's way of life; it is a public life of living for the sake of others that knows no limits.

True conjugal love is the third pillar of the family temple of God. God's true lineage is manifest in the pure, absolute love between husband and wife in a true family. Marriage is the unique and unchanging relationship that manifests the inner life of God. It creates an unbroken chain of God's lineage through the generations. Pledge 8 fully elucidates this as the "ideal of God and human beings united in love." Pledge 7 discusses "the original lineage" and teaches an understanding about love and marriage that will protect the purity of youth.

A family that practices these true family values becomes a temple of God. In its family unity, people can see a reflection of God, as Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father... In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me,

and I in you.” (John 14:9, 20) The true family is a Four-Position Foundation where God, parents and children are in perfect oneness. Such families are the image and substance of the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in perfect oneness.

The Kingdom of Heaven

As true families multiply on earth, they will create a nation of true families and ultimately a world of true families. The entire cosmos will then become God’s temple, fulfilling the promise in Revelation, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.” (Rev. 21:3) This eschatological hope does not obtain by a unilateral act of God’s supernatural power; otherwise, God would have done it long ago. Rather, it is up to human beings to make themselves fitting as God’s dwelling-places. When all families of the earth become God’s temples, then truly they will constitute the Kingdom of God, both on earth and in heaven. Ultimately, when all the world’s families become true families, the Kingdom of God will become a reality.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." —Rev 21:1-4

1 *Exposition of the Divine Principle*, pp. 32-36.

2 *Analects* 4:1

3 Sun Myung Moon, “Fourth Jardim Declaration,” August 28, 1998.

Postscript

THE BOOK OF REVELATION, in its vision of the new millennium, describes the qualifications for entry into the New Jerusalem with the following words:

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices falsehood.

—*Rev. 22:14-15*

There will be a division among humanity. “Those who wash their robes,” are those who keep sexual purity and practice true love. Their families will be blessed with happiness and abundance. Those “outside” of the city do not follow a pure lifestyle. Seeking love in the wrong way, they find nothing but disappointment. Many assuage their longing through alcohol, drugs, visiting prostitutes or having numerous affairs. Others become homosexuals; still others turn violent or suicidal. With people unwilling to curb their sexual appetites, AIDS runs rampant. Yet they justify themselves by the pernicious ideology of the sexual revolution, which celebrates physical love without restraint and rejects God’s commandment “you shall not eat the fruit” as if it were a fetter to human happiness. The future of civilization will be bleak indeed unless humankind changes direction.

To partake of the Tree of Life symbolizes fulfilling the God-given purpose of life, which Adam and Eve could not fulfill. From what has been discussed in this book, we can affirm that the purpose of life is nothing less than establishing a true family.

Adam and Eve were to partake of the Tree of Life when they reached maturity and received God's blessing of marriage. God would bless their conjugal love, and the fruit of their union would likewise be blessed. However, when they ate the forbidden fruit—which led them to feel ashamed of their lower parts—they were driven out of the Garden and prevented from attaining the Tree of Life. What was the nature of their sin? What do a man and a woman do with the lower parts of their bodies? Their sin was illicit love.

In these last days, all people are confronting the choice that Adam and Eve faced in the Garden of Eden. The great conflict in the world is no longer between democracy and communism. It is between true love and false love, between people seeking to live by true family values and those who live by the false values of individualism, self-gratification, and materialism. Confusion over family values throws even the churches into chaos. Without a compass, we would surely lose our way.

Yet God does not leave His children in darkness. In the midst of these confusing times, He has sent the light of renewal through the ministry of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. Their ministry has thrived despite untold hardships and persecution because God blesses it and Jesus Christ approves it. They have established the first true family, a family according to God's original design, attaining what Adam and Eve were meant to have attained. Now they are teaching the people of the world how to form true families through the True Family Values ministry.

The Family Pledge shows the way. Its teaching traces out God's design for the family. It teaches how to attain true love and lasting happiness. Families founded upon true family values can receive God's blessing upon their marriages and fulfill the purpose of life. Furthermore, true families are the missing link between the salvation of individuals and the Kingdom of God. They are the leaven that will bring peace to the world. The Family Pledge is thus the compass to guide us to perfection and the blueprint for establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Take time to pray and study this teaching. Practice true family values in your marriage. Teach them to others, especially to youth. Merely telling young people to "just say No" to premarital sex is not

enough. Nature has given them passions and the exciting prospect of newfound love. They need a vision of the good family to which they can aspire, to make the pain of self-restraint seem worthwhile. We should guide young people on the proper path to preparation for marriage by teaching them the true meaning of love. Moreover, as parents, we should set a good example by cultivating true conjugal love and true parental love at home.

Let us work to transform our society, which is currently hostile to families, into a society that rewards fidelity, sexual purity, and all the true family values. Let us make our churches into havens for families struggling to remain whole and strong. We offer this teaching to churches of every denomination with a prayer that it may empower them in this vital work of God.

About the Authors

Rev. Dr. Joong Hyun Pak leads an ecumenical/interfaith ministry in Korea as President of the Interdenominational Christian Association and Chairman of the Association of Religions in Korea. He also serves a Vice-President of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace and a Vice-President of the Family Party in Korea. Previously he served the Unification movement in the United States for over three decades, where he led efforts at evangelical outreach, ecumenical cooperation and the struggle for racial harmony. While holding the post of Continental Director, in 1996 he developed the True Family Values Ministry for rebuilding the corrupt foundations of the American family. In 2000 he served as the co-chair of the international organizing committee for the Million Family March. Rev. Dr. Pak is the author of *Joymakers: Rediscovering the Beatitudes* (1993). He received a Th.D. from Golden State University in 1985 and has taught as a visiting professor at the Unification Theological Seminary, the Holy Land Theological Institute in Jerusalem, and at Sun Moon University. In recognition of his many accomplishments, in 2005 he received an honorary doctorate from Sun Moon University.

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