
The Sovereignty of God

This is a very turbulent time for God. He is full of anticipation as He watches those of us who have already received the Blessing develop and mature into perfected human beings. He knows that the time is coming when we will come under His sovereignty.

As we grow spiritually and advance toward the goal of perfection, we glorify God, reflect Him, and relate to Him more as our Father. At the same time, His heart widens, and feels jubilant. Isn't it probable that God feels elated when He looks at us? Imagine what a tragic history He has gone through. Even though there are millions of people who do not even call upon Him, we Unificationists strive to make Him the center of our lives, for one of our goals is to live with Him eternally.

We will be filled by God's pure love once we live under His direct dominion. Only then will we be true temples of God and the incarnations of true love. Until we are in God's *direct* dominion, whatever we say or do is unprincipled or unethical according to God's standard. As long as there is a tincture of fallen nature in our reservoir of love, we cannot love purely. Our love is stained with satanic elements. Until a person perfects his heart, he is a mixture of good and evil, and cannot love with absolute, unconditional love.

Communication with God is one thing, but living under His dominion is quite another; they are not synonymous. Any person who has a deep longing to meet God *will* eventually do so. He invites us to communicate with Him at all times, but because we are not yet perfected we are still not under God's sovereignty and we have to contend with satanic interference. To live under the "direct dominion of God" means to be governed totally by God's love and truth.

we are still imperfect and therefore neither free from Satan nor free to experience the true love of God. Of course we can still communicate with God, but to perceive the unconditional and perfect love of God, a person must be totally receptive. And we will be totally receptive only once we have perfected our hearts.

At one time, Adam and Eve were the highest manifestation of God on earth. Even during their teenage years, they were the visible manifestation of God to the universe and the angelic world. But because they had not yet matured and perfected their love, God could only govern them indirectly. He depended upon the angelic world to help them grow closer to Him and

toward perfection. God was waiting until their bodies and minds matured to the point that He could totally manifest Himself through them. If Adam and Eve had reached maturity, the realm of the direct dominion of God would have opened at that time. God would have incarnated into a man and woman who had perfected their hearts. Unfortunately, it did not happen, and it was Satan who "incarnated" and took sovereignty. God lost the opportunity to instruct His children directly, and for the thousands of biblical years since then, He has been forced into solitary confinement and exile from this world.

Direct communication between God and man *is* possible. It is also possible between imperfect people. But imperfect people are *not* able to live in the direct dominion of God. That dwelling place is reserved only for people who have attained perfection of heart and love.

All humanity has inherited fallen nature and original sin from our first ancestors. Satan can retain his hold on a person until the person perfects his love. That is why God is so intent that everyone reach perfection; He wants to help all people do this as quickly as possible. He was the one who created the law, however, and He purposed everything to grow according to it. There is nothing more He can do. I am sure if He could do more for us, He would.

We ourselves have the responsibility to reach perfection. Once we do, He will be able to claim us. That is when we will become incarnations of His law and love. God cannot govern us directly while we remain in His indirect dominion. During this time, He can influence us only through the Principle. The responsibility to grow spiritually is our own. But we do grow closer to perfection when we harmonize with God, the Principle, and our fellow man through love and service.

Until man perfects his heart, there is always the possibility that he may make decisions which actually go against the will of God, even in the smallest way. It is also possible for an imperfect person to make mistakes in loving. As long as man is able to make such mistakes, he stays in the indirect dominion of God. Once man perfects his heart, however, he will live under God's sovereignty. Such a person would represent and manifest the unconditional love of God, and therefore could never go against the law of God. He would feel the heart of God totally, and never do anything to hurt his Heavenly Father. He would be able to sense in his own heart the possible ramifications of his actions.

We are trying to capture the essence of God into the small "machine"

of our heart. This "microcomputer" we call heart is trying to encapsulate the whole meaning of the universe. The heart is quite remarkable, and is capable of doing many things. It is necessary for a higher being to give commands to a "computer," therefore God should be the one who gives us our commands. We must realize that God actually programmed us accurately, but we are the ones who malfunctioned. The best computer is not worth much if the person does not operate or control it correctly. Data must be fed in and stored before output—in the form of calculations, logic comparisons, or word patterns—can be retrieved. In our relationship with God, we can see there is also a system of "storage" and "retrieval." But while we still live under His indirect dominion, our "computer" can be turned on and off, sometimes even before we are able to "store" things properly. Once we live within God's sovereignty, it will not be necessary to turn off the power. Our heart-to-heart communication "terminal" will stay permanently switched on!

We will be totally guided by God only after we reach perfection. If you have tasted in a little way what God is all about and you have a greater longing to come closer to Him, you must have also realized that *you* are the one who has to do something about it. Your relationship is not something that begins and continues automatically. Jesus told us to "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." A relationship with God—most especially life within His direct dominion—calls for active participation.

Once we are under the sovereignty of God, we will be filled with true love, as well as share it. Under the direct dominion of God's love, you will be freed of spiritual contaminants. Analyze yourself now and discern where it is you stand. Look into your heart, and determine how close you are to perfection. Are you nearly living in the direct dominion of God's love, or is Satan still so close that you often feel torn between him and God?

Living within the indirect dominion of God is very different from living under God's true sovereignty. Yet even before you live within the direct dominion, by focusing upon spiritual matters you can be elevated to a spiritual level in which you can naturally feel the presence of God. Ask yourself if you are in constant touch with God, or if your communication is only a momentary thing. Do you speak of divinity at all times? Are you able to take the position of God, and cope with any situation as He would?

All of us grow month by month and year by year. Ideally, we should become much clearer channels of God so that He is able to speak and live through us. When we examine ourselves and each other, we will discover how close we are to God, and much more about God Himself, and even His world—our ultimate destiny.

It is possible to control a horse by putting a bridle in its mouth. Doing that will allow you to hold it or lead it where you want, even steer it around corners. But you also have to exercise caution when working with horses; each one has its own temperament. If you are an inexperienced rider and attempt to ride a horse which has a distinct mind of its own, and pull on the reins too suddenly, the horse may rear straight up and you might fall straight down.

How good are we at controlling ourselves? If we do not exercise much self-control, how can we try to control a horse, a car, an airplane, or the like? Some degree of control is vital in order to accomplish something. God wants to "control" us with love, but for Him to succeed we must help. To do that, we have to consciously create a base through which God can reach us. That will give Him, rather than Satan, the ability to govern us, and ultimately we will live under His direct rather than indirect dominion.

Once we learn what it is God does, we have to govern ourselves according to the way God governs us. We must first discover what God has in mind for our lives. For example, we are merely the caretakers of our bodies. The way we govern our body is similar to how we should govern our environment, and ultimately relate to and "govern" the whole universe.

The universe is God's macro body, and each of us is a micro body of God. God is using our bodies to manifest Himself. Because we are not perfected, He is unable to do that with total success. The more we listen to God and follow His will for our lives, the better His success rate will be. Even while we are under the indirect dominion of God, we have no right to do with our bodies—or even our souls—as we like. Our flesh is actually holy flesh; we should be conscious of that fact even though we are merely the caretakers. On that premise, we have the obligation to ask God how we should govern our bodies, and once we do we will surely receive an answer from Him.

As they are growing up, the True Children live under the direct dominion of the love of God. They are under the direct "sovereignty" of both the love of God and the love of True Parents. But they still need to

reach perfection. Perfection has little to do with the amount of knowledge a person accumulates, or how much he accomplishes. It is directly related to sin; for a person to perfect his heart and love, he must be raised under the love of God, and live within that realm.

To become a true son or daughter of God is a beautiful ideal. In fact to fallen man, becoming a true child of God is almost incomprehensible. But that is our future—our destiny. Mankind has lived in spiritual darkness a long time. We have shouldered the burden of guilt and inferiority complexes for such a long time, we may have a hard time recognizing our potential to become good human beings. We have a problem recognizing that God has a plan for our lives. We look in the mirror, but find it hard to look too long. We tend to look beneath our skin, and notice our inconsistencies and inadequacies staring back at us; that only serves to make us turn away. We see that we have a long nose, or a face that does not overly please us. So many of us don't like ourselves, because whether or not we have been able to hide it from others, at least *we* know our faults. We know that we have been unable to overcome many things, and that we fail more often than we care to admit. Such thoughts and even beliefs give rise to the syndrome of self-degradation. We are often bound by our low opinion of ourselves and do not nurture self-respect. Because this causes us to feel angry about our sins, we may start to blame others, and then we may even begin an active campaign of resentment and hatred toward not only ourselves, but the world and her peoples.

This attitude causes such a great gap between our present condition and our true identity as a son or daughter of God. Unless we receive the help of God through the Messiah, and unless a great change takes place in our lives, we will stay spiritual dwarfs. We will always feel suppressed by Satan, ruled by him, and unless we make strides, we will find it nearly impossible to dispel this narrow-minded attitude. Sons and daughters of God must be optimists and revere their Heavenly Parent. They should be positive people—forward looking people—and steer away from materialism. Therefore, we Unificationists should be "big-thinkers," not "narrow-thinkers." We should look at the world and embrace the universe with our minds and hearts. Once we are really able to do that, we will be living under the sovereignty of God.