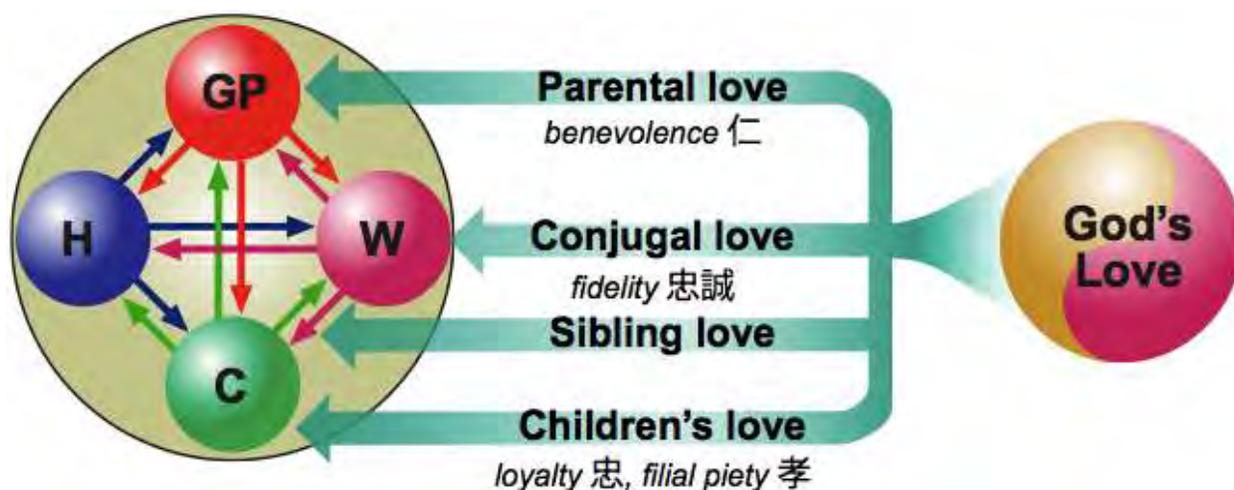


Royal Family Love

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A Regal Dimension for All Families?

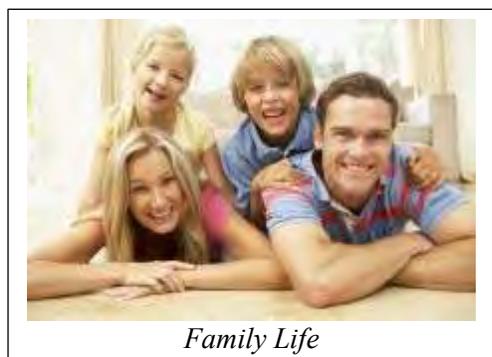
In my last blog post entitled “Love x 3 x 4”, I touched on the four types of love that can be expressed and experienced in a three generation family. I’d like to continue examining the quality of the relationship between parents, grandparents and children in a family.

Rev. Moon elevates these relationships by attributing to them an uncommon gravity. His perspective is that there is a regal dimension in family relationships, in that the elders can bequeath to the young ones all the hard-earned knowledge and wisdom that they have acquired in their lifetimes. In this sense, there are three levels of sovereignty in a three generation family:

“... in the Kingdom of Heaven... the king is the center and the head of a family ...three kings in a family refer to grandparents, parents, and children. The grandparents are the king and queen of the past; the parents are the king and queen of the present; and children are the kings and queens of the future.” • *New Essentials of Unification Thought*, p. 544

Because of this, all three — grandparents, parents and children — are due a certain degree of respect that values what the elders have already accomplished or what the young ones will eventually accomplish. Still, this is a challenging point of view to take. Further insight from Unification Thought may help clarify this idea:

“One may raise the following question: Why do we need to call them kings instead of just saying grandparents, parents and children? It is because the position of king is the most noble and respectable position. The conventional concepts of grandparents, parents and children are quite different from those in the original world. Through the Divine Principle, we have learned the preciousness of the family, namely, the preciousness of grandparents, parents and children. However, there is still a great difference between those concepts as conceived by God, and those which are conceived by human beings. We express the most supreme nobility with the term king or prince. Originally, every human being was to be a noble being like a king.”
(*New Essentials of Unification Thought*, p. 545)



Even if one is willing to entertain the idea of this elevated perspective about members of one’s own family, how do such lofty ideals apply to our normal home life? Speaking for myself, it induces a different dimension of responsibility within me towards my wife and my child. And even though my parents are deceased, it even influences how I think of and speak about them.

In regards to my wife, at least, seeing her as the daughter of a monarch — which, as a daughter of God, she actually is — makes a subtle difference in the way I relate to her. There’s a

heightened degree of respect and even reverence that I feel when I see her this way. And when this colors the way I speak with her, or the courtesy I outwardly express to her as a result of this heightened feeling, children notice and store it away their memory.

And then, in regards to my child, seeing him as the scion of a royal lineage — which, as a descendant of God, he actually is — I feel a sense of responsibility to nurture the qualities and abilities in him that he will eventually need to lead his family or to succeed in the professional world.



Movie: *The Queen*

I think that kings and queens must clearly see that their princes and princesses are still growing. Still, because they are aware of their children's value and destiny, they do not treat them lightly. In the recent film *The King's Speech*, the King — father to Prince Edward — advises that younger son that he must learn how to speak to and lead his people, for the sake of their nation's future.

And reigning monarchs can still seek the counsel of their parents, who had once been monarchs themselves. For example, in the

movie *The Queen*, there is a scene in which Queen Elizabeth struggles with a difficult problem and goes to her mother's room in the palace to ask advice. Her mother dialogs with her wisely and helps her find what she must do for her nation.



Movie: *The King's Speech*

The King's Speech also gives a glimpse of how very young princesses treat their father the King. At the start of the film, the prince has two daughters and his relationship with them is very warm and familiar. But when he must assume the kingship of England, the daughters know that a new level of respect and formality is necessary. So when he comes home after accepting the throne, he is greeted with a new formality and is deeply moved by his daughters' respectful greeting "long live the king".

Although the people depicted in these films are sovereigns of nations or their children, still, if one is to entertain the idea of Rev. Moon that there is indeed a royal dimension to families as they were originally conceived of by God, then the films can give us a glimpse into parent-child relationships that embrace a wider sense of responsibility than to just one family, but are actually responsible to the greater society.

Unification Thought states:

“...we should look at the members of our family, and other families, as those who are as precious as kings and queens. Hence, a home is a royal palace. After bequeathing his throne to his child, the king becomes the grand-father in the royal palace, and stays in the central position as the great king, representing the spirit world and God. A home is as precious as a royal palace.”

(New Essentials of Unification Thought, p. 545–546)

If we are to raise children with a sense of responsibility to the wider world, I think these notions of dignity — and indeed royalty — are in fact helpful and practical: If our children, over a period of many years beginning in childhood, can experience being highly regarded as potential future leaders, they might be able to form a confident self-image which feels responsible to the wider society that they live in. And when they mature and become parents to their own children, perhaps they will nurture and love them also not only as little children, but as young princes and princesses of Heaven and earth, royal monarchs of the future.