

# **Principles of Matching**

**By Jim and Hiromi Stephens**

# **Table of Contents**

## **Introduction**

Maybe we can help you.  
Having a baby is easier.  
Very likely, matching won't be easy.  
Giving birth involves pain.  
Back story of our family.  
Grateful and blessed.

## **The Original Ideal for Matching according to Divine Principle**

Plan for Adam and Eve's children.  
Principles help clarify dysfunctions.  
Where is your inspiration?

## **God's Portion of Responsibility**

Knowing God's Plan  
God plans for thousands of years  
God often whispers  
God learns too  
God knows how to speak to you  
Pray to know your portion of responsibility

## **Parents Portion of Responsibility**

Creating the image of God as a couple  
Modeling true relationship for future marriages  
How do children know when they are ready?  
Parents take subject role in searching  
Parents lay the foundation for interaction  
Parents share their conclusions

## **The Matching Candidate's Portion of Responsibility**

Requires 100% effort  
The Marriage decision is forever  
Is your preparation enough  
Candidate must take full responsibility  
Each person is unique in their preparation  
Books and resources can help  
When are you ready?  
Importance of communication around matching age

## **Portion of Responsibility of Others**

Everyone would want to participate  
Restoration has challenges  
Use available resources

## **Introduction**

### **Maybe we can help you.**

This booklet is to assist you in getting started in the process of matching your children.

We had five children and all of them had arranged marriages and the Blessing from True Parents in the Divine Principle tradition. Each of our children is very unique. We believe that God worked in each of those matching cases, but each one was as unique as the child or more so. From our experience we can practically guarantee you that there is no simple, magic formula for your children. We do not even recommend bothering on trying to find one.

That is why this booklet is going to focus on sharing some Principles of Matching. We believe that by understanding the principles of the process, you will be much more likely to be successful and less likely to get discouraged or hurt in the process.

We will be sharing some of the special insights and inspirations that we have gained in the processes that we have gone through. Feel free to jump around when you are reading this booklet. The information does not have to be read sequentially since you probably are already familiar with the Divine Principle which is the basis for most of what we will be sharing.

In addition to our experiences with our own children, we have been involved with helping other families matching their children. We have been actively involved with organizing programs for matching and as individual matching advisors for over 10 years.

Also back in 2001 when True Father (Rev. Sun Myung Moon) inherited the matching responsibility to parents, I (Jim) developed a website to assist families. That resulted in about 23 couples being formed.

### **Having a baby is easier.**

We have found that there are a lot of analogies between giving birth and arranging a marriage. One time I (Jim) had a spiritual experience that when a man and a woman come together in marriage that in God's eyes it is like the sperm meeting up with the egg. United together, they will create a whole new being which is their relationship and family.

As was mentioned, each of our children is totally unique. However, we really have to testify that the marriages they have are vastly even more unique and different from their siblings' marriages. As they say, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Clearly God's design for marriage is that He can accomplish so much, much more through a couple than an individual.

### **Very likely, matching won't be easy.**

Are you looking for the easy way? We don't recommend it. We experienced this as the hardest thing, heartistically, that we have ever done. You might want to prepare for the hardest thing you will ever have to do.

Giving birth to a baby has a due date in nine months. It's coming whether you like it or not, whether you are ready or not. Arranging a marriage has no due date. And likely it won't happen unless you are ready.

In the case of one of our children, it took 14 years. Seriously, we went through some of the lowest lows and highest highs we have ever been through. Our children's lives and their happiness is more important to us than our own. If they suffer, we experience great pain too.

### **Giving birth involves pain.**

Having a baby for almost every woman involves pain. But you know the pain will end in a relatively short time and then be replaced by joy. Physical pain will usually be forgotten. Matching has no such

guarantees and it's a different kind of pain, pain of the heart. Matches that are successful bring great joy. Sometimes disasters happen and you have a whole different set of experiences to deal with and pieces to pick up.

If men had to endure the pain of childbirth, there would probably be way less children in the world, if we didn't die out as a species. Surely God has given women a special grace of love for what they go through that allows them to go back again for each new child.

### **Back story of our family.**

Most people don't know the back story of our family. Out of the five children, only one was a successful matching and Blessing on the first try. Two of our children had their first matching broken, so we know that pain. One of those took about ten years and seven different attempts before we had success. Every process has highs and lows.

One of our children was matched and Blessed by True Father, only to have that turn into a disaster. After surviving that and returning for a picture matching, which itself went a long course, success came.

Another child had three different matchings, one of which was a Blessing. All of those broke and were accompanied with great heartache, helplessness, hopelessness, and lots of other emotions.

### **Grateful and blessed.**

Today we feel totally blessed by God and grateful that all five of our children are happily married. But we know that this is not the end. It takes a lot of hard work continually to succeed in any marriage relationship. And then there is financial success and of course parenting. Grandparenting has proved to be an extra special, and unexpected type, of joy. We look forward to many years of that and all it will bring.

God's original design is truly remarkable as it unfolds. It keeps getting better and better. Each new stage has challenges but also new and deeper joys. And many deeper realizations in our relationship with God, our Heavenly Father, together and individually. The design was perfect. The greatest tragedy, that few ever realize, is the incredible joy that was to come from love in an extended family. Because of the Fall of Man, most people don't know even the joy of the First of the Three Great Blessings.

That God is faithful to His ideal and therefore faithful to us to reach that ideal is a great comfort and hope to us as we struggle through this restoration process.

## **The Original Ideal for Matching according to Divine Principle**

### **Plan for Adam and Eve's children.**

For us, it is very helpful to constantly refer to the Divine Principle and especially the original plan for Adam and Eve. God had a plan. God was planning for the matching of their children from the beginning of time. Do you know what it was? By fulfilling the First Great Blessing and then receiving God's Blessing of Marriage, Adam and Eve were to become the True Parents. Surely, God working through them would have matched their children.

This helps us understand the original design for order and relationships which we can try to apply to the process of arranging marriages for our children.

This booklet will present a paradigm for arranged marriages based on the Divine Principle concept called Portion of Responsibility. Starting with God's Portion of Responsibility, then we'll discuss ideas about parents' responsibility, children's responsibility, and others' (helpers) responsibilities.

We believe that referring to the original design and attempting to follow it will give us the greatest chance of success.

### **Principles help clarify dysfunctions.**

One of the really nice results of knowing the core principles is that you can know the roadmap to success. If something goes wrong, the principles will help explain what is the malfunction and why. Also, principles give us the ability to predict what the results will be off into the future.

As a simple example, suppose one of the parents will not participate in his/her role in the matching process. Clearly the original paradigm will not function in this case. This will cause a lot more challenges in the process.

If the parents quit on their responsibility and push the burden onto their children to take the whole responsibility, then that failure of responsibility has consequences into the lives of the children and future generations.

### **Where is your inspiration?**

We all have problems, but focusing on your problems will make them bigger. As you read through the following sections, look for divine inspiration personalized for you and your situation. Look for the hope. Look for God's Point of View. That is where there will be inspiration and understanding. Keep trying and keep asking God to help you.

## **God's Portion of Responsibility**

### **Knowing God's Plan**

I think we can all agree that God has an original plan. After all, He did create the entire universe and every living thing from the smallest cell. All the relationships of protons and electrons, anions and cations, stamens and pistils, males and females were all designed by God. There was a plan. By extension, there must be a plan for you, for your spouse, for your relationship, and for your children in the mind of God.

Surely as well, it must be the best plan that there is. It's just that the really hard question is how to find out the plan and know for sure when you have found it.

Our experience is that it is very difficult to know the plan of God and in fact, to go a step further, the plan of God keeps changing. We're not sure, but it really feels like God's plan changes. We have come to assume it is because of circumstances that are unknown to us that changed. The net effect may be that God seems to be leading you randomly.

Once God took our family into a matching process that we felt was fully inspired. After a couple of meetings with the family, it came to light that the other young person had already secretly found their own match. It was painful for everyone, but healing did take place in their family. We think that we had a hand in that and it was God that "used" us for the healing. We have offered that experience up rather than feeling betrayed by God. This was a lesson for us that God's plan may be a whole lot bigger than just what we are looking at with our eyes.

### **God plans for thousands of years**

Think about it. God must have ideas and plans out into the future for thousands of years. His matching plans for your family aren't just for your children, but He must be thinking about your descendants for many generations to come later. If one matching is not a success, maybe the future children or grandchildren of those lineages are still intended to be matched.

Here is an analogy. We are driving a car on a very dark night. We can only see as far ahead as the headlights of the car will shine. You don't know the curves ahead of that or the detours you will encounter. But you keep on driving in faith, right? Just stay on the road.

Having faith in God's goodness is your best course of action. Believing that God has your best interests in His heart and is working to accomplish those all the time is important. If you are not looking, you will not be ready to find it.

### **God often whispers**

One of our matchings got started because I (Jim) decided to look at Matchbook profiles in an age group that I rarely looked in. One profile that I read seemed to stick out because three times the young man mentioned "helping the world". My daughter had been talking about that exact thing lately. When I emailed the parents, I described noticing those three phrases. Their son had been rejecting any attempts lately, but when he heard about this, he was suddenly open to communication. The lesson here is that God reaches out through your intuition and inspirations. Follow those.

Another of our matchings started when an old friend from my Seminary days in 1975-77 called me (Jim) that he had a dream that we were discussing the matching of our kids. It just so happened that we were due to give a talk at a workshop hours from our house but not too far from their house. We arranged to meet up and had lunch with them. I believe that dream was from God and his acting on it was what could lead to a successful match.

Another matching got started at a Parents Matching Convocation. A big circle was formed by parents with daughters. Hiromi was in the circle in the area for older girls. But she was very near the other end of the circle where there was a parent with one of the youngest girls. They struck up a conversation. Low and behold, our youngest son got matched to their daughter.

That's a few ways showing how God has worked for us.

### **God learns too**

Personally we think that God has learned a lot from experience and probably changed His techniques over the years as He has seen the results of all of His efforts and ours at matching down here on earth.

One of our first matchings was accompanied by lots of spiritual signs. One of them was that when my daughter got on a plane to return to America from Korea, the mother of the young man was sitting in the seat right next to my daughter. Having an engineering background, I (Jim) am flabbergasted at how God could have possibly arranged that.

Over the years since those early days of matching, I don't see so much of these exceptional spiritual experiences that seem to be God working directly. I don't know if God stopped doing such "miracles" because they were not so successful or because we stopped looking for them, or if there is some other reason.

### **God knows how to speak to you**

How will God speak to you? Each of us is unique and so is our relationship with God. God has already spoken to you many, many times in your life. Think about those experiences. Were they dreams? Were they inspirations in prayer? Were they words out of someone else's mouth? Were they insights from reading? God knows how to speak to you so that you will recognize Him. That will probably be the way that he sends guidance about matching. Prepare yourself to receive the guidance and be watching for it.

Know for sure that God gave each of us a Portion of Responsibility. He did not interfere with the Portion of Responsibility of Adam and Eve even as they were heading into the Fall.

This shows how vital God holds man's Portion of Responsibility and we need to recognize how significant this is. It means that He will not interfere in our own Portion of Responsibility as parents, as husband or wife, or as man or woman. Nor will God interfere in our children's Portion of Responsibility.

### **Pray to know your portion of responsibility**

As parents, it is important for us to recognize our own Portion of Responsibility and the Portion of Responsibility of our children and not interfere in it, just as God does not interfere. This is a valuable focus of your prayers during preparation.

## **Parents Portion of Responsibility**

In God's original plan for Adam and Eve, they would have grown to full maturity, which means oneness with God. They would then fulfill the mission of making oneness with each other, becoming the eternal True Parents of mankind. It would therefore seem that God would easily have been able to guide them in how to match their children.

### **Creating the image of God as a couple.**

The Portion of Responsibility for Adam and Eve would first involve growing in their ability to represent God's love until God granted them permission to marry. Only God had the authority to give them the Blessing on their marriage. Only God had the authority to grant them the privilege to begin sexual relations. Sexual relations with God's permission would create His blood lineage and then His blessings could flow to the sons and daughters.

Adam and Eve's Portion of Responsibility after God's Blessing in marriage involved creating oneness within their couple. Their oneness was the "womb" that created the energy for producing their children and God's grandchildren.

Naturally as the children grew, Adam and Eve would have deep insights into the nature and character of each child. They would connect to God's vision for the life of that child. Adam and Eve together in harmony and unity would match their children as the direct representatives of God.

From the moment a couple learns the wife is pregnant, and certainly after the child is born, there are many times when they think about the future spouse for their child and his/her ultimate and eternal happiness. This is totally in line with the Principle.

### **Modeling a true relationship for future marriages**

Certainly God must think about each child in that way. Parents want their children to fully mature and are looking forward to the day they can give the blessing, God's Blessing, on their marriage. Parents are committed forever to the happiness of their children.

So Parents' Portion of Responsibility involves creating the Principled subject and object relationship centered on God as husband and wife. Parents are the role models and their relationship is the foundation for the children's future relationships to their spouses.

If Adam and Eve had fulfilled as True Parents, then when their children reached matching age, what would they do? Being fully connected to God, the parents would, we believe, recognize that the child has reached the level of maturity that is necessary to enter into marriage. At that point the parents need to meet with their child and clearly explain that the child has successfully matured.

### **How do children know when they are ready?**

Every child has the right to hear it from his/her parents and it is the duty of the parents to tell their children, "We know you and we believe in you. You are mature. You are loving. You are trustworthy. You can keep a promise. You are ready to go to the next level. We are ready to give you our blessing."

How do young people know when they are ready for matching if they don't hear it from any representative of God? Parents must believe in them and pass on that belief in them so they can come to believe in themselves. When the child can also believe, he or she must exercise their own Portion of Responsibility and accept to enter the matching process.

### **Parents take subject role in searching**

The parents take the subject responsibility of doing all the searching process to find a candidate for matching. They could receive suggestions and recommendations from all available sources, including the children themselves, their siblings, or friends, other connections, even Internet websites.

Please note that the parents are in the subject position in relation to the children. This surely makes sense in the original plan of God because they are much better connected to Him. Within the parents, the father is in the subject role. This is not a dictatorial position. Love makes the subject and object of equal value, even equal responsibility, but there is a difference in position.

The parents would lead the process of searching for a candidate. Once one is identified, then the parents would be the ones contacting the other family or some designated intermediate.

### **Parents lay the foundation for the interaction**

They would meet the family. They would possibly even interview the candidate before he/she ever meets their child. Inspirations would be coming to the parents from God in how to guide the process and proceed at each step of the way.

If God is fully working through both sets of parents, there is nothing to be afraid of. Parents would feel God's love. Children would feel God's love and protection. Even candidates being interviewed would feel God's love and not nervousness.

### **Parents share their conclusions**

Once the parents are fully confirmed in their belief that God would bless this matching, then they need to convey that message and fully disclose their thinking and inspirations to their child. After that, the Portion of Responsibility of the child begins.

## **The matching candidate's Portion of Responsibility**

### **Requires 100% effort**

It may seem like the matching candidate has very little to do in the whole process. However, their responsibility is to fulfill the First Great Blessing, i.e. full maturity and oneness with God. This will require 100% of their effort.

If a candidate is that mature, then he or she is fully ready to enter into marriage.

If not, then the other candidate is being asked to accept someone who is still immature. They, of course, have the right to decline the marriage. So it is a huge responsibility for any candidate to (a) fully prepare themselves in maturity and (b) also prepare themselves to decide whether or not to accept someone else who might have limitations.

### **The marriage decision is forever**

This is the bottom line of the decision. Marriage is meant to be forever. Can someone 21 years old or maybe even a few years older be able to make a decision that will last for eternity?

You are never fully adult and never fully mature and responsible unless you can make an eternal commitment. Isn't that one of the natures of God? Can you be unchanging?

Preparing for loving a spouse can begin as young as childhood. Educating yourself on every aspect of masculinity and femininity and connecting yourself with God is a vital part of fulfilling the First Great Blessing.

Probably the biggest decision you will ever have to make in your life is "Do you take this man/woman as your spouse for all eternity?"

### **Is your preparation enough?**

Most young people don't prepare enough. So when they get to the moment when they have to face the decision, they don't know how to decide. Or possibly they use some criteria from the fallen world like looks or feelings.

How many years have the parents prayed for the future spouse of their child? How many years has the child prayed about making this decision and commitment? How much has the child prepared to be able to keep that commitment?

My personal testimony (Jim) is that when I heard the announcement that there was going to be a matching, I knew in my heart that I was not ready. I made a condition of 40 days of praying and studying for 40 minutes a day. When the condition was over, I felt in my heart that I was still not ready. So I repeated the condition. Near the end of the 40 days, I had a deep experience in prayer. The Divine Principle says that a husband and wife are destined to be the image of God. This was a tremendous relief for me because I did have faith in True Father's matching already. But now I realized that whoever he matched me to would have to be someone that I could make oneness with in the image of God. Otherwise, God would be violating His own nature with a different match centered on punishing me for my sins for example. My fears were gone.

### **Candidate must take full responsibility**

Even if the parents totally believe that one particular candidate is sent by God for their son or daughter, the full and final decision on accepting the match, full subjectivity and responsibility over accepting the match must be placed into the candidate's portion of responsibility.

Parents cannot interfere with this decision. As much as they may desire it, they should back off. It is not their responsibility at this point.

If parents interfere in a young adult's portion of responsibility at the very essence of the love relationship, then the young adult can never become mature and responsible. According to Divine Principle, parents cannot take over the candidate's Portion of Responsibility. In the section about "Why God did not intervene in the Fall", we learn that interfering would be destroying the possibility for perfection.

The best parents can do is educate and model how to make the right decision. Guide them on the God centered path so they can fulfill the ideal on their own.

### **Each person is unique in their preparation**

Each person is totally unique and will therefore have a totally unique way of preparing for matching. Their prayers, reading, writings, and questions are all different. Help them feed their mind, heart, and will with resources uniquely fitting to their nature and character.

### **Books and resources can help**

There are many good books on understanding ourselves and our unique strengths and weaknesses, books on what makes good relationships, books on making marriage work. Check out Appendix 1 at the end of the Matching Handbook which lists some of them. Also the website is an ever-growing resource.

### **When are you ready?**

"Being ready for matching" is as unique as each individual. Some may be ready before their older siblings. There is no birth order requirement to being matched.

Parents can provide a really valuable service to their child with this kind of statement. "We believe that you are fully mature enough and ready to be married. And here is why..."

Parents may think it's a good idea to want to wait until their child says, "I'm ready to be matched." But seriously, how do they know? They have never been married.

### **Importance of communication around matching age**

Many parents lose touch with the lives of their children who go off to college. It is really important to have regular interactions with them about their spiritual growth and thoughts about marriage.

Children need to keep up the communication with their parents centered on matching. Keep it regular and keep it private. Even prodding your parents, if necessary, is important.

How is a parent supposed to find a good prospective match if they don't know their own child well enough? Parents obviously want to find someone their child will want to be matched to. They do love their child and want for his or her eternal happiness.

## **Portion of Responsibility of others**

### **Everyone would want to participate**

What about other people in the extended family and community? What is their portion of responsibility? What about the Grandparents and siblings of a candidate?

In God's original design, all adults would have reached the level of maturity similar to Jesus. Therefore all the aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors, and especially the grandparents would be great matching advisors. All of them would have personal networks of hundreds of people. All of them would be deeply connected to God. Therefore the pool of candidates would be rather large.

### **Restoration has challenges**

In restoration however, we have a more challenging course to find prospects. It is therefore important to create a team of people who can support the matching process with prayers and searching.

### **Use available resources**

A website of candidates is one of the best resources.

A matching team can meet together and go through available candidates and narrow down the field and help organize and prioritize the process.

Contacts and friends who have more experience with matching can be called upon to share their experiences and suggestions.

Everyone wants to see young happy and loving couples. It brings hope and encouragement to everyone. It's a great good to the whole community. Everyone would be inspired to be able to contribute to the process.

Clearly, it would bring great joy to God as well. Creating new couples is one of the things closest to His heart.

Please read through the Matching Handbook for more practical guidance and also check out the list of resources on the website.