

Sexual discipline is not a call for a narrow judgement nor a devaluing of biology

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The Blessing tradition established by True Parents is the essential core of the religious and social vision of Heavenly Parents' Holy Community (FFWPU). It represents a vision that is on the one hand natural and traditional -- affirming marriage and family as the foundational unit of society -- and on the other hand modestly radical and socially, conservatively transformative. Celebrated with joy, dignity and hope, the Blessing Ceremony includes a rite of passage that marriage has always represented -- comparable only to birth and death in sacred and social significance -- and a statement of commitment to the wider world about the social and moral significance of the family.

At a time when, in most developing countries, marriage (and population growth) are in decline, and radical redefinitions of gender and sexual ethics are widespread, the Blessing offers an alternative vision that upholds the traditional purposes of the family, namely, reproduction of the species to sustain the existence of the community; the ordering of sexual instincts and energies for the benefit of individual and the society; and the formation of the minds and hearts of children from one generation to the next.

Moreover, the Blessing is understood in a profoundly theological way, as a sacred covenant between a woman and a man, pledging before Heavenly Parent, True Parents and the entire faith community, their commitment to cultivate and maintain natural affections, as a central aspect of their happiness and their growth; to remain sexually faithful to each other; to produce children and to raise them, as best they can, to be good sons and daughters of heaven, exemplary community members who develop themselves for the sake of effecting positive change in the world.

At a time when, throughout much of the developed world, sexuality and marriage have been secularized, redefined in purely biological and largely hedonistic terms, and alienated from long-standing moral traditions espoused by the world's religions, the Blessing affirms monogamous marriage and the related discipline of abstinence and the virtue of purity. The ordering of sexuality is essential in the ordering of the family and social life. Likewise, the disordering of sexuality lends itself to the disordering of the community, which adversely impacts a wide range of social realities such as economic development, the quality of neighborhoods, crime prevention, trust and solidarity, and not infrequently gives rise to unfulfilled hopes and general dissipation.

Sexual discipline is neither a call for a narrow judgementalism nor a devaluing of biology and bodily existence. On the contrary, it is linked to a vision of spiritual and moral development and of a well-ordered society, and as a necessary prerequisite for happiness and fulfillment of our deepest aspirations for meaningful relationships. Seldom do we see positive consequences following sexual disordering, practices of license and sensuality. Indeed, the familial bonds of trust and mutual affection required for a stable, healthy society are best cultivated in a context of the exclusivity of intimacy. The uncoupling of sexuality from marriage and from reproduction not only diminishes its importance but contributes to unintended consequences that impact the stability of marriage, the health of society and the well-being of the next generation.

At a time when our moral obligations to our community and future generations have been more widely emphasized in discourses on the environment -- requiring us to discipline our use of resources -- or on the distribution of wealth -- requiring us to overcome selfishness and to care for strangers -- it is reasonable to recognize that the disciplining and ordering of our sexuality and the commitment to establish a thriving, welcoming environment to receive a child, are precisely acts that serve the next generation and the community.

Therefore, in ordering sexuality for a higher purpose, as well as for personal happiness; in making a spiritually and emotionally healthy marriage; in having beautiful children and raising them to be heavenly champions that carry forward the ideals of the community... one is exercising spiritual and moral agency at its highest level; and, not merely for personal happiness, though that is of great importance, but for the well-being of the entire society. Through marriage and by responsibly raising children, we contribute to social justice, crime prevention, mutual prosperity, stability in society, care for the environment, love for neighbors, respect for ancestors who have passed away, some with broken and unfulfilled lives, and respect for the integrity of future generations, starting with the loving environment provided for one's own children. There is no act of greater spiritual, moral and social significance!