

Healthy Family Relationships, the Ultimate Solution to Global Issues

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The state of the family is a barometer of civilization: This means that healthy families, as the basic units of a social community, form a healthy society; conversely, if the family collapses, the social community will also collapse. This conveys the same concept as cells in a body being healthy indicating that the body is healthy.

Today's global issues -- poverty, unemployment, starvation, war, terrorism, drug abuse, inflation, divorce, deviant sexual practices, free sex, disease -- have originated from the family and will continue to do so. Therefore, social issues will naturally resolve themselves if families are healthy.

One healthy, model family arrangement is the traditional Korean "large family" structure, in which three generations live together. The Three Great Kingships of grandparents, parents and children live as one family forming the Four Great Realms of Heart and maintain relationships -- parents, children, siblings; husband, wife, and grandparents communicating with love.

The grounds for a large family structure based on the Three Great Kingships being the model for a healthy family is that it is a structure that resembles God. When God's original internal nature and original external form develop a reciprocal relationship centered on the heart, give and receive action occurs and creates a result. At that moment, when the four elements -- center, internal nature, external form, and result -- are connected, the reciprocal relationship of these four elements will always achieve the four-position foundation (giving rise to the concept of space). All things that exist in the universe, without exception, form a four-position foundation. This four-position foundation is rooted in the three-stage principle (giving rise to the concept of time: origin- past-grandparents, division-present- parents, union-future-children) caused by origin-division-union action.

The attributes of give and receive action are perfection, harmony and unity. Hence, contradiction, conflict or opposition do not arise in a family structure in which are present origin- division-union action and the four-position foundation (in which give and receive action occurs). This ultimately translates into fulfilling the Three Great Kingships (concept of time) and the Four Great Realms of Heart (concept of space).

The aim of forming the Three Great Kingships and the Four Great Realms of Heart in a family and creating bonds of love is to resemble God and to connect to his "frequency." When your family is on the same frequency as God, your family can tap into and resonate with the divine nature of God's universal awareness. A world in resonance with God would be a peaceful world of love within an order characterized by its beauty.

Maintaining happy family relationships with this level of resonance requires applying elements of true love. True love is primarily object-oriented and whole-oriented, which means having a goal to realize the value of another person by preserving the lives of the other person or of the whole and promoting that person's (or the whole's) growth and development.

Second, true love is action-oriented which entails putting thoughts into practice and emphatically prioritizing service to others. Third, true love entails loving the other person unconditionally, regardless of whether the person is worthy of receiving love. Fourth, it entails loving consistently, not temporarily.

True love is indispensable

For sake of the propriety, stability and advancement of a healthy family, the presence of true love in the family is essential. You should list "things I should always do" and "things I should never do" as rules. Consistently practicing this is healthy and functional. In families that have rules that encourage family members to express affection toward one another, the circulation of affection causes grandparents, parents, and children to get along harmoniously, listen better to one another and strive to live for one another's sake. Trying to implement too many rules may backfire. However, rules work well when they become implicit and family members are emotionally comfortable with them.

Present global issues begin from problems in family relationships and a family collapses because it ceases to fulfill its functions. Family functions broadly divide into internal family functions and external family functions. The internal family functions affect each individual family member and are performed in these

areas: establishing values, loving, having children, raising children, producing and consuming goods, education, protection, relaxation and entertainment.

The external family functions are ones the family performs for the whole society. In other words, they are maintaining sexual control, tribal preservation, supplementing of members of society, procuring labor in order to secure a living, maintaining economical order, cultural enjoyment and social stability.



Prof. Moon with students of Sun Moon University's Pure Love Department for the first Pure Love Education Seminar for professionalizing, globalizing and vitalizing pure love education

The conjugal connection

The very center of a family is the husband–wife relationship. The husband–wife relationship represents the present but connects to the past and future as well. When children see their parents respecting their grandparents, setting a good example of filial piety, the children will likewise respect their parents. This is because the lives the parents lead are the scripts they write for their own children.

The key point of healthy family relationships is building a healthy husband–wife relationship. In this way, well-rounded communication in a grandparent–parent relationship and the parent–child relationship is possible.

What specific elements in marriage contribute to a successful husband– wife relationship? First, the family background in which good men and good women grow up is very important. People who have had many positive experiences in their childhood tend to have successful marriages. Parents emulate the lives the grandparents led and children emulate the lives their parents led.

Second, preparation for marriage is important. Whether both spouses maintained chastity before marriage, their age at the time of marriage and the motivation for marriage are very important variables. Third, the age and level of maturity of the people involved in the marriage affects the stability of the husband–wife relationship.

Early marriages can have issues such as a decline in educational standards, inability to have one's desired career, low income, lack of preparation for parenthood, emotional immaturity, deficiency in self-awareness and lack of achievement in personal career developmental tasks. On the other hand, if one is prepared to put one's partner's happiness first before one's own and that is one's motivation for marriage, the marriage can succeed.

Arranged marriages have a high success rate because one can choose one's partner from an objective point of view.

Parents' matchings or (as is common in Korea) matchings by church elders are one of the most trusted ways of finding a future spouse, because these are arranged marriages. A parent's love is a form of agape, which most resembles God's love. Depending on the attitude in which the parents raise their children, the children's attitude toward their parents will differ. When there is a lot of communication among family members, children have fewer conflicts and their affection for and sense of intimacy with their parents are

high.

Filial piety, which is children's love, is the starting point of all love and once the child has grown to maturity and married, it determines the success of their marriage. Since filial piety is passed on traditionally through generational preservation, the parents should practice filial piety first in order for their children to take that path with them. Thus, each link of this chain through the generations is crucial for the preservation of filial piety.



Happiness into old age

The quality of the relationship the elderly family members have with their children or with their daughter-in-law is an important variable in determining their satisfaction and can positively affect morale. (In the traditional Korean large-family structure, the daughter-in-law joins her husband in his parents' home.) When elderly people are satisfied with their financial state, when their psychological satisfaction increases from being treated well as parents and when they are in favorable health, their psychological satisfaction and morale increases and loneliness decreases. When they are active in their lives of faith, they have higher levels of satisfaction and low levels of fear regarding death.

To preserve a healthy family, blessed first-generation members should pass on God's traditions, values, heavenly law and a heavenly lifestyle to those in our second and third generations. One: pass on God's pure lineage; two: conduct Hoon Dok Hae every day with the aim of achieving individual perfection of character and uniting and standardizing the values people hold all over the world; three: practice true love every day. Establishing such traditions will affect one's attitude in any of the public areas, such as politics, economy, society and education.

Through generational preservation, healthy families understand how to trust, love, serve, support, and communicate with one another and study how to live according to heavenly law. Upon the foundation of purity and fidelity, a couple unites and studies how caring for children and the elderly can be both a goal and a source of joy in family life. A tradition in which relatives integrate and the standard of everyday customs passes from generation to generation in a desirable manner, make it possible for healthy and desirable preservation.

If healthy families become the structure of a community, people working in public fields (politics, economics, culture, education, diplomacy or the military) in a modern society will also have inherited positive attitudes from their own family relationships. Therefore, people working in these public fields will develop in a positive direction and we can expect that global problems will naturally be resolved.