

I Felt I Must Repent for What My Ancestors Have Done and Love Blacks

Our Unification Church Missionary
July 1976
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I had a deep realization two and days ago. A friend of ours invited us to the movies. For the first time, while watching the movie, I saw the relationship of blacks and whites from their perspective. In so many movies blacks are portrayed as the bad or evil persons. Then I began to think about what they must feel, always being placed in the lower or bad position, in movies, in religious belief (black being Satan), and social scale as well as in culture and education.

I realized my people -- the white race -- had caused a major part of that suffering. (Even if Ham failed, long afterwards the feeling and relationship didn't change.) And even if I deeply love them they can't understand because the barriers of pain and resentment of misunderstanding mistreatment are still present.

I felt I must repent for what my ancestors have done to them. I can't change the past; I can only work to build a new future for coming generations, and ask them to forgive us for the past mistakes and mistreatment.

Somehow it is related to repenting for the sin of Adam and Eve and our ancestors. It's difficult to feel, deep in your heart, something that was so long ago and far away. It's easy to repent for our own sins and mistakes because we directly committed them and are responsible. But it is difficult to repent for the cruelty of a race when you have not treated them unkindly in your own relationships. However, we are representatives of our race and of mankind, thus we must right all wrongs and indemnify the mistakes of history.