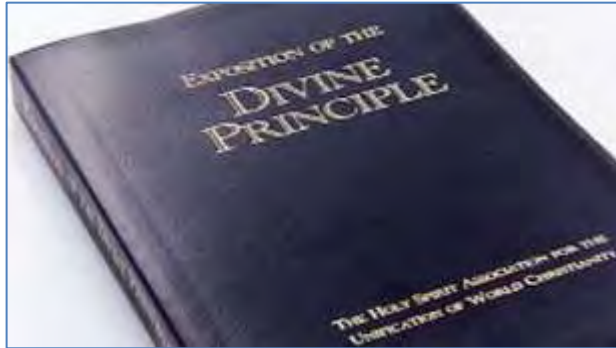


The Varieties of Divine Principle

Benjamin Douglas

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EDP is an abbreviation for "Exposition of the Divine Principle." This is a 1996 translation of the Korean book "Wolli Kangron" (hangul: 원리강론, hanja: 原理講論), which was published in 1966. So are the two versions of "Divine Principle," both published in 1973. (As an aside, the first translation, which was rushed and of poor quality, is often referred to as the 1972 DP--which seems like a good convention for clarity, even though it was actually published in early 1973; that's the thick black book.)

When Father (or members) talked about the timeless, universal, absolute principle(s) that the book(s) try to elucidate, he (they) normally used the word "Principle" (capitalized when written). I don't think I ever heard, or remember reading, "Divine Principle" used for this second sense of the universal principle(s).

So if I hear or read the phrase "Divine Principle" (or "DP") I assume it refers to the book(s). If it refers to a single book, it must necessarily refer to the Korean "Wolli Kangron." That is the one Father said was authorized as the central text. It superseded the earlier versions "Wolli Haeseol" ("Explanation of the Divine Principle," 1957, 원리해설·原理解說) and "Wolli Wonbon" ("Original Divine Principle," completed 1952 / transcribed 1953, 원리원본·原理原本). There are 3 official translations of "Wolli Kangron" into English, which I call the 1972 Divine Principle, the 1973 Divine Principle, and Exposition of the Divine Principle (1996). This third translation can be abbreviated "EDP," so to me "EDP" means only the 1996 translation. Some academics have translated the title "Wolli Kangron" as "Discourse on Principle."

There were of course other books that tried to capture the universal principle(s), written by Chung Hwan Kwak ("Outline of the Principle"), Young Oon Kim ("Divine Principle and its Application"), David Kim ("Individual Preparation for His Coming Kingdom"), Bo Hi Pak, and others. When I say "DP," I'm comfortable with someone interpreting it either as referring to the Korean DP ("Wolli Kangron"), the Korean DP and its translations, just "Exposition of the Divine Principle," or all the books members have written to elucidate the universal principle(s).

Sometimes the phrase "The Principle" has been used to refer to one of the books. But I never read or heard anyone (even once) refer to the universal principle(s) as "Divine Principle." That just seems unnecessarily confusing. My understanding is that the addition of the word "Divine" to clarify "Principle" was at the suggestion of a native English speaker when the first title in English was published. The phrase was invented for the books.

By the way, the 1996 translation (Exposition of the Divine Principle) is **significantly** better than the 1973 translation. It even corrects or tweaks some minor theological and scientific mistakes (that are retained in the Korean DP, "Wolli Kangron"). Both these two translations are **vastly** better than the 1972 translation, which was so rushed it didn't even eliminate all the grammatical mistakes and awkward phrasing.