

A Black Man Speaks about Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church

George Whitfield
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George Needham Whitfield, a lay minister, has been a follower of Rev. Moon for two years. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Whitfield is also the vice president for Afro-American relations for the Committee formed to stage the God Bless America Festival and other events.

Anybody who has turned on his TV or radio, or opened his newspaper has heard something all out the Unification Church and its founder, Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Most people have also heard some of the "bad raps" against Rev. Moon and the Unification Church. For example, there is the tale that the young people who follow him have been "brainwashed." There is also a rumor that the CIA funds the Unification Church.

I assert unequivocally that these allegations are absolutely false. I have followed Rev. Moon for two years and I know that these rumors have usually been spread by people who fear or resent the idea of a yellow man from Korea coming to this country and attracting the young people to his teaching.

For black Americans, they are no strangers to the sting of such harsh and biased attacks from the media and the powers. Therefore, black people have not believed the wild things that we have heard and have not leaped to attack Rev. Moon.

So I would like to take this time to relate my experiences as a young black man who follows and admires the teachings of Rev. Moon.

Moon's Message

Essentially, Rev. Moon's message is that God has an ideal and purpose that is expressed through man. Men and women were created in the direct image of God and are intended to be the sons and daughters of God.

Because they were God's children men and women were to take responsibility as co-creators and become perfectly one with the heart of God. Then they were to establish a family centered on God and assume dominion over the universe. Dwelling in absolute joy, mankind would reflect goodness, beauty and glory to God, their father. This is God's ideal; it's called the kingdom of heaven on earth.

However, the overwhelming reality is that God's ideal has yet to be realized. Man has fallen away from his Father; the world has become a living hell of selfish desire. Originally, since man would be one with God, he would follow the core of his being, his spiritual essence. Contrastingly, because of evil, men are strangers to God and His spirit. Therefore, we pursue the flesh or material gratifications which lead to evil. Man's grief is deep but because God is man's Father, His grief is deeper still.

What then should God do? To correct this dreadful situation God must send His representative, the Messiah, God's son from His own lineage. The mission of the Messiah is to end the world of evil by restoring fallen man back to his position of son-ship to God.

What should fallen man do? Unite. In order to receive the Son of God, there must be a foundation of unity and love centered on God. The words (mind) and deeds (body) of man must become one. Then there must be heartistic unity of people of different races and colors. All must live as true brothers and sisters under one God.

A Personal Story

In the summer of 1974 I first came to know the Unification Church. For one year or so I had been on a spiritual journey. I wanted to find the answer to the age-old questions: "Does God exist?" and "What is the purpose of life?" More immediately, as a black man, I wanted to know the solution to racism.

I asked: "To achieve racial peace is it necessary to destroy ourselves through hatred and bitterness?" Throughout my life I had heard the tired old racial panacea that we must learn to live together. Yet realistically I knew that without a deep union with God's heart, this would be impossible to practice.

I further knew that the great difference between blacks and whites not only in color, but in experience and ways of feeling has been the justification for one group to deny the humanity of another group and then proceed to selfishly oppress and exploit them.

The tragic results of this are feelings of inferiority, resentment and hatred which burn and scar the hearts of the oppressed people. These words make the Christian ideas of brotherhood and racial harmony impossible to practice.

Then specifically, what has Rev. Moon taught us? He has taught us that only the Universal Father, God, and His limitless love and truth can transcend racial barriers. God sees man from the deepest level of His love and compassion as a Universal Parent. When white, black and yellow men stand before God we stand as brothers equal in His eyesight.

So despite what others might tell us, the black man is a child of God and has every right to walk the earth in Godly dignity, strength and beauty. In Rev. Moon's teaching the standard of value is God's love, the standard of merit is how we reflect God's love in our own hearts.

These are great teachings and profound truth, but can they be practiced in the everyday world? The answer is yes. Perhaps this is why Rev. Moon has achieved so much for God, for he can inspire people to put their faith in action. He has taught us to achieve a vibrant, personal relationship with the living God.

This can be achieved through prayer, self-discipline and constant effort. But above all it takes an attitude of Christ-like self-sacrifice. Through this way we can overcome racism and hatred and melt the resentment that they have created.