

The Starting Point of Good and Evil

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Excerpt

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Photo of (left to right) Ye Jin Moon, Sun Myung Moon and Hyo jin moon at Belvedere - date unknown

It is difficult for us to define exactly what is good and what is evil. Through human history, a thing was called good if it was in conformity with the philosophy of the age, or else it was thought to be evil. For example, if someone breaks a promise or fails to carry it out, the other would call it bad or evil. The individual would call something good when he gains something and bad if he loses something. When we ask ourselves if it is really good when something causes us profit or bad when it causes us minus, then we are not sure because the standard of profit or loss varies according to the individual. When we compare the conditions in the Communist world with the conditions in the democratic world, religion is not admitted in the Communist world whereas it is admitted in the democratic world. We can safely say that the standard of good and evil in the Communist world is different from that in the democratic world.

Roughly divided there are two main ideological blocs in the world: the Communist world and the democratic world. But even in the democratic world, the standard of good and evil can vary according to the nations and to the view of life of the people. Then, what is the origin of good and evil? It is fundamental to clarify at what point good and evil started.

The starting point of your life is your parents; the starting point of your parents is your grandparents, and so on. When we trace back human history, the starting point for humanity is our first human ancestors - Adam and Eve. The starting point of Adam and Eve had to be God, and therefore God's standard of good and evil should be the absolute standard. Therefore, the standard of good and evil after the human fall could not be a fundamental one -- even if we do find a better standard of good and evil in the democratic world, where people believe in God. You are not the starting point of good and evil; and neither am I. Then, what is the starting point of good and evil, and where is it?

The standard must be defined by God.

The starting point of good and evil was Adam and Eve, the first human ancestors. Again, it has something to do with God. Originally, the relationship between God and man is that between Creator and created, Master and servant, Father and son and, in general, between subject and object. In no way is man the subject being in his relationship with God. Man is the result of God's creation. Right from the beginning man was not born out of his own accord. We were born from the motivation of another existence, which was God. Therefore, it is clear enough that we are not the subject, but are in the position of object to God.

We were not born because we wanted to be born. Then, what could motivate our desire? We cannot think of ourselves separately from God as the subject. We are nothing without Him. Only when we look for Him and find Him can we find the motivation of our life. We are destined to find God before finding the true meaning in life. We know that we have our own desires but we must know that these are secondary desires. The original desire can be found only when we find the ultimate subject, God, and become one with Him in love and in goodness. In other words, the standard of goodness cannot be defined by ourselves, by man. The standard of goodness must be defined by the ultimate subject Being who is absolute and perfect -- whether we name Him God or something else.

What would God have us do as goodness? Would He not want us to attain the purpose and value of our lives by becoming one with Him and doing good things? Then, goodness will start from that point. If man is in the object position to God as the subject, God is compelled to show us the way of goodness. As I said before, the relationship between God and man is that between subject and object.

The subject and object must finally become one through the action of give and take. Love alone can keep the perfection of give and take making any two into one. Centered on love, what kind of relationship would bring the two into the closest and strongest oneness? It must be the kind of love which we first experience in our life as a child to our parents, which will last forever. That is the love between father and child. The very beginning of our lives started with the love relationship between our parents and ourselves. Only when there is perfect love between a husband and wife can they give birth to perfect children. The love between parents and children will last through eternity, while conjugal love can be broken.

Parents are the example

The love relationship between parents and children is the strongest. Even without trying, in their loving and serving their children, parents are the example for us to learn how to love and serve others. The first thing in our life we learn from our parents is how to love and serve others. We cannot deny that our parents, in the position of God, have shown us the example of God, by loving and serving His children. If man had learned from God in the beginning how to love and serve others and put it into practice, a world of love and harmony would have come about. Loving and serving others is the example and tradition set before us by God. If Adam and Eve, following His example, had loved and served each other, and if they, in oneness, had served and loved God, the world of goodness and unity would have come about.

If you serve others without love, true unity cannot come about. If you calculate profit from others and for that purpose serve and exalt them, the person cannot become one with you: only love can make true unity. If you serve others at the sacrifice of yourself, centered on love, the love can be returned manifold; however hard you may serve others, if it is not centered on love it will cause nothing and you will have worked in vain. If you really love someone, you can leave everything in his hands with assurance. It is because in love, there is no "mine" or "yours," but everything belongs to both. Only love makes it possible. In this case, loving and serving that person will not cause any loss to you. If you leave things to someone you love they are still yours and what is his is also yours -- thus in love, you have twice the benefit. As you love and serve the person, you can come to completely occupy his heart, thus coming into perfect unity and harmony with him. So no power whatever can separate those who truly love each other. If you serve people with love, what you have given will be returned to you, with all he has added to it.

The standard of love

In the beginning, God would have wanted all humankind to become one with each other in love. The expression of love should have been service and sacrifice for others. God, Himself, did the same for mankind. If Adam and Eve, after the example and tradition of God's love, had loved each other and if they in oneness had loved and served God, their descendants would have done the same and the ideal world would have come about. Only in this way could God have built the ideal world through man. In love, you want to completely occupy your mate and you want to be completely occupied by him. Isn't that true? You want to be completely occupied by your mate, until there will be no "you."

In that situation there can be no "you" and no "he," but in oneness both of you are elevated to a higher dimension of yourselves. In that kind of love there can be no complaint, no negative power can work there; even though you may be smashed and trodden upon, your love cannot be broken. If your parents loved and served you by bestowing Godly love in their hearts, you then could have done the same following their example, while your children in turn would do the same for their descendants. This is how the kingdom of Godly love could have come about. The children who had received this kind of love from their parents would learn to love their parents in return. This is the first love the children learn and the first love they practice.

As I see it, in this country of America the parents do not quite have such love. If parents loved their children transcending individual interests, then their children, too, could have learned and practiced love towards them. Then the bond of love between parents and children could be so strong that the parents

would never divorce each other and leave their children in misery and unhappiness. No child would want his parents to love him with self-centered love or half-heartedly, with their interest in something else. The same applies to brothers' love towards each other. Even in the relationship between the government and people of a nation, if they do not love and serve each other their relationship will be broken.

Goodness is to love and serve others

Now we have come to the truth that the starting point of goodness is to love and serve others. This is the standard of goodness which started at the beginning of human history and which has lasted through the process of history and will endure through eternity. The same thing applies in the relationship between God and man, parents and children, husband and wife, brothers and sisters -- and between families, between tribes, between nations, thus making the whole world into one under God in love and goodness. We call this present world a world of evil because this world is not what it should be according to the standard of goodness we have set.

You are Western people, but suppose an Oriental man loves you more than any Westerner, including your brothers and friends, loves you. Would you not love this Oriental man more than you would love your own brothers? It is man's original tendency to respect and exalt persons who love and serve others. We cannot deny this fact. If goodness is to serve others centered on Godly love, then what must be evil? Evil is the contrary. What must it be to love and serve others for the sake of oneself? Is that good or not? Even though people seemingly love and serve others, if they love and do things centered on themselves it is evil.

So, we can see that good and evil start at the same point but head in different directions. Service to others is seemingly good, but unless the service is centered on Godly love we cannot call it good. We cannot deny that good and evil are headed in different directions according to the quality of love they are centered upon. Even in witnessing to people, if you evangelize in order to go to heaven, is this good or bad? You must rearrange your way of thinking and put things in order. You may say to yourself, "In this movement I must bring at least three or more members in three years' time in order to be blessed, so I must work desperately hard." Is that good or bad? If you think of the urgency of God's providence of restoration and are desperate to witness to people from that viewpoint, then it is good. It is good because you are doing that not for your sake, but for the sake of God.

Evil is self-centeredness

Every religion teaches us to pursue and practice goodness and to love and serve people. But we must have a clear picture of how good and evil start at the same original point, going in entirely different directions according to the quality of love that things are centered on. We know that Adam and Eve fell somewhere in the beginning. This means that evil came into existence at a certain point where it could have been good. For a man who was born not out of his own will, to have wanted to do his own will was the beginning of the fall. In order for him to be good, he was supposed to do the things his subject, God, would take delight in. But Adam and Eve wanted to do what they pleased and thus caused evil to come about. Evil having been brought about from this point, if anything starts at this point, we can define it as evil.

I am your leader but if I always want you to do things for my sake, then you will fall away one after another as time goes by. If I keep doing this, there will be none left here. If I do things for a selfish and self-centered purpose, the outcome is only too clear. I could pretend to be good for a while, but sooner or later your spirit would come to know that I am not, and though you pretended to obey me you would inwardly complain. Finally everything would rupture. Nothing like perfect unity would be possible. The more we struggle to be united into one, the quicker the rupture will come about. This is what has happened all through human history, everything being judged by the people as to whether it is good or evil.

In this light, we can judge that persons like Jesus led a wonderful and good life according to the ultimate standard. From his childhood he did not think he was born for only his own family, his tribe, or his nation. He knew he was born to save the whole world; thus he called himself the son of God. He had the definite idea that God was his Father and he, His son. He thought, "I am born for You, I live for You and I am going to die for You." Therefore he was confident that God's love would abide in him forever. We know that was a great discovery. With this confidence he left a great example of divine love -- even asking forgiveness of his enemies who put him on the cross. With this great love he influenced and moved the hearts of the Roman people who had once oppressed and persecuted him; and from then on, the Roman Empire came into the sphere of Christian culture, playing an important role.

A world of goodness

If the people of the United States and the people of the whole world really know this theory of divine love, the whole world will come to be a world of goodness with every possible scientific achievement

used for the good of the world, and him alone. His name will remain with the history of that nation. Would you, too, want to become a famous and important person on the national level? Then, try to serve others centered on true love. Even if you were a candidate for president, would the people elect you if you were serving others for self-centered purposes?

Where goodness dominates

The kingdom of God is the ideal world where goodness alone dominates. That is to say, it is where people exalt and respect those who serve others. At the time of the human fall, the archangel dominated Eve and Eve dominated Adam, while the order should have been the contrary. Each wanted to utilize the other centered on their own interests; this was the beginning of evil. Thus, in the fallen world, fighting between individuals and wars between nations have continued. Wars have continued because the defeated nations or people always wanted to restore what they lost.

Have you ever stopped to think in what way we must do things in the Unification Church? Members of the Unification Church believe that the world cannot be saved except by our group. We know clearly that our church will develop and expand to cover the whole world with love and goodness. Our motto, as you know, is "With the heart of the parents, in the shoes of the servant, let us shed tears for mankind, sweat for earth and blood for heaven."

Are those simple words? Have you ever tried hard to put that into practice? Would there be any "I" there which is ego? No ego is possible there. It means we have to be the incarnation of parental love towards mankind. If we practice parental love towards mankind, serving them as a servant would, then we should never regret shedding tears, sweat and blood for the sake of mankind, giving out our whole being. If we do this, we will not have done this in vain, because we will have many people appreciating it and following the example. In studying, or in witnessing to the people if we do that with the concept that we are going to be famous or appreciated by' people, then it is already bad.

In speaking of success would you want to be successful now or later? I would rather reserve success to the end, because if you succeed now, it will be a small success, while later it would grow to be a success of greater dimension. More than that, if you succeed now you are apt to be arrogant, and being contented, you will never struggle on. Then your success will end as success centered on yourself. Should your success be self-centered, or centered on others?

In the history of mankind we have seen without exception that just as a nation enjoyed its prime, it would begin to fall or decline. America cannot be an exception. The United States is proud of being the leading nation of the world, but it cannot go on for eternity. You must know that your nation is blessed by God not for the sake of yourselves but for the sake of the world. If there is any way at all for your people to keep your blessing, it is for you to think that the success of your nation is not for yourselves but for the benefit of the world. You must not only think that way but you must act that way and do things for the benefit of other nations. Then your success will not remain where it is' but will be multiplied until it will cover the whole world to save mankind.

Training for Tomorrow

You must think that today's success is training and preparation for tomorrow's bigger success. For most people success is for self-benefit and so they cling to it, never sharing with others. They are apt to enjoy their success -- never working harder. This is a totally wrong idea, because they could not have had success without the aid of others; so it does not belong to them alone but to others too. If you feel like being proud of yourself, you must first be proud of God and mankind who made your success possible. Then your success can be justified. When you are successful you must turn to God and say, "Oh Father, but for Your help, I could not have been successful." And turning to mankind you must say, "I couldn't have done it by myself."

So your success belongs to God and to mankind. Then both God and people around you will be pleased and will have you enjoy it. They will think you are a wonderful person entitled to success. If you have this attitude, succeeding will not end there, but you will have still greater success in the coming days. But if you are boastful then success will end there. When you think of yourselves, have you lived your lives with that attitude? If not, you must realize that you are not entitled to whatever you have attained. So, bear in mind that your success must always be returned to God and to mankind, always serving others with God-centered love without any complaint or regret, to the end. Then you are going to be qualified for victory.

You must always put yourself in the position of object to God as the Subject and to other people as another subject and be ready to love and serve them. Then they, in turn, will love you and would be willing to let you enjoy successes and victories. Jesus, though he died on the cross for mankind, looked like a failure at that time, but history has proven that he was a success because his ideal and deeds remained alive in human hearts -- thus causing Christianity to develop as it has. Therefore, if you sacrifice

yourself for the sake of others, you are already successful even though it may seem that you are a failure. There is room for you to rise again for bigger success. If you may have to fail once, twice or even a hundred times, there is still room for you to succeed if and when you do things for God and for others. Such a person will be helped by heaven and earth until he attains victory. But those who struggle and do things for the sake of themselves, their accomplishment will be ephemeral and limited.

Be sure you are acting for God's will

Which kind of success would you choose? You know too well. We must re-evaluate ourselves according to this standard. I know that among the Unification Church members there are some who would say, "I have been in the church so long, and what has become of me? If I am going to die like this, what will be left behind me? Don't I look more miserable than when I was in the world 10 years ago?" Is this a good way of thinking or a bad way of thinking? Don't ever think that way. However hard a situation you are in and however miserable you may look, and even though you may be on the verge of death, your sacrifice will be justified by God and you must be sure you are doing this for God's will and for the sake of mankind. When you are on the edge of defeat, without your realizing it, reinforcements are being sent by God to rescue you. On the spiritual level myriads of saints will come to save you, while even on the physical level people's minds are on your side supporting you even without their being conscious of it.

In movies you have seen many such instances. Suppose there is a patriot who is captive in an enemy camp. After severe torture, he is at last about to be shot to death. Without his knowing it, reinforcements are coming to his rescue. His last chance to be saved was when he was asked to help the enemy against his own nation to save his own life. If he had been so cowardly as to say yes, when the reinforcements came to save him, he would have been put to shame. But if he should say, "I have lived for my country and I want to die for my country," then the reinforcements will praise him and the whole nation will exalt him and leave his name in the nation's history.

In a way you are fighting in this kind of battle for the will of God. Billions of spirit men are mobilized on our side. Have you ever thought of that? How wonderful it is to know that because of one individual like you, the whole spirit world is mobilized. Suppose that there is just one more peak to cross over, and then there will be a highway paved where you can reach out and gain the support of all mankind. Then if you are frustrated on the way, at the threshold of victory, how pitiful it will be in the end.

You are not alone

So, you must know that you are not fighting alone, but with companions on the spiritual level as well as on the physical level. Therefore, even though the battle should look unfavorable, the next moment it can turn out to be a victory. If you fight on with readiness to sacrifice yourself, so much help will come from above and around you. How wonderful our battle is! Those who begin things with good motivations must never vacillate but carry it through to the end. How much more would it be so when the matter is centered on God's will! The beginning and end, alpha and omega, must meet. God will find the world through us and the world will find God through us. God and the world will meet through us. On the vertical level, God will connect with us, and on the horizontal level individuals will connect families, tribes, nations and finally the whole world.

Satan tends to take the offensive while heaven is on the defensive. The time for victory for the heavenly side comes at the end of the battle. It is too early and even dangerous for us to be boastful; and it is safe for us always to be humble and steadfast. At the end we can be proud of our victory, and it will be yours for eternity. It is characteristic of the satanic world that people are always proud of themselves and boastful of what they have done. They always initiate battles, but in the end, the victory will be for the heavenly side, where people have always been attacked. In humbleness and with strenuous effort, we will finally defeat the enemy who is over-confident. On the Godly side, people defeat the satanic side while serving others centered on divine love. If you are ready to give your lives for the great cause, you can win the minds of the people which is real victory on the side of righteousness. This is the standard of goodness. If we go on like this, any opposition or persecution is nothing. We can be sure that before long, everyone will come to our side.

My words will prove to be true. Otherwise there is no God. As long as there is God, our will united with God's can be realized. God's will is not for America alone or for any one nation. We know it is for the whole world and for the entire mankind. That's why we are here, transcending racial, national, and religious boundaries. We are here for training in preparation for the coming battle, to advance forward to the end of the world.

First love brothers and sisters

We must long for and love the kingdom of God more than we do our respective nations. In the love of the kingdom of God and its people we must serve the people at the sacrifice of ourselves. This alone can bring us victory to erect the kingdom of God on earth. We must restore the relationship of love between

God and man. In order to be loved by God, we must first love our brothers and having united with them, come back to God's bosom and be loved by Him. That is to say, by our winning our Cains and returning them to God, He will be made happy by us and can really enjoy a rest after a long struggle.

This is the way we should live to be filial sons of God. We must know that this is the true way of life. If we are thus in the strong love relationship with God, no other power whatsoever can sever our relationship. By our doing this alone, we can build the kingdom of God on earth where peace, happiness and the ideal can prevail. There is no other way possible for us to build the kingdom. In the kingdom we are going to be the first citizens under God, our Lord and everlasting Father. Thus, good and evil starting at the same point will end in the victory of righteousness. Everything dark and negative will be eliminated, goodness alone dominating. The world of God's original intention will start right there.

God has never once been frustrated or exhausted in the long, long battle against Satan. He can fight the battle only through us. So we as His children must resemble Him by following His example, never getting frustrated or exhausted, fighting through to the end until we win the final victory. Now we are going to march forward to the battlefield of the whole world with the United States as our base.