

Ideal Family

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As we know from Father's speeches, the ideal family, the blessed family, is the fundamental unit of the Heavenly Kingdom. One other point from Father's words that I would like to explain is that the family is the fundamental foundation for the fulfillment of God's love on the earth.

God's love is all-important: it's the central motivation for our life, for our happiness and joy. But no matter how wonderful and precious God's love may be, if it is not connected with people, with mankind, with us, it has no meaning. In fact, God wants to express His love fully through mankind, through our daily life.

Man is meant to fulfill God's love throughout his life. First, before marriage, or before blessing, each brother and sister needs to experience the fulfillment of God's parental love. Second, we need to experience the fulfillment of the love between husband and wife. And thirdly, we need to experience the fulfillment of children's love in our lifetime. Without the fulfillment of parental love, we cannot fulfill the love of husband and wife, or children's love. Thus the very minimum foundation, for every aspect of the love of God, is nothing other than the family.

In thinking about the ideal family, we must consider first the center of the ideal family, which is the position of parents, and then the ideal husband and wife, and finally ideal child. This is the four-position foundation, the basic foundation of the total love of God. Without establishing this foundation, we cannot attain the fulfillment of God's love.

Another expression of Father's is that the ideal family, or the blessed family, is "God's own gate." Without the ideal family on earth, God has no way to enter our life. How important the ideal family is then! How precious the phrase "ideal family."

But let us compare the ideal family with the reality of our life. Last time I spoke to you, I explained that our position at the Blessing is not that of perfection but is only the top of the growth stage, the second stage. One stage remains ahead of us. We blessed couples are sometimes confused by the teaching of the Principle concerning ideal family in contrast to our reality. Furthermore, we may tend to compare ourselves with early blessed couples. What is the "ideal family" in reality? What is the standard of the ideal family.

The ideal family and our reality

God created all things before man. What this means is that, though God's purpose and final goal was man, before creating man He needed to prepare the environment. By the same token, there are certain prerequisites for the ideal family, certain external conditions to meet before the ideal family can be fulfilled. The environment of the ideal family must be pure.

"All things" in this connection means more than the economic base. There is the beauty of things, the truth of things; a general foundation is required for the ideal family. Unfortunately, our generation is in need of restoration, salvation. We should create the ideal family, but there is no ideal foundation to do so. It's a big problem. Ideally, there would be no Satan, no evil environment; in reality, we are in a very delicate and vulnerable situation. The circumstances of our generation are specific to our generation. Think about our sons and daughters, and the third generation beyond that: they will not be like us. It is only our generation that has to lay special indemnity conditions. Please remember this: it's our generation alone.

We can identify several territories. Satan is involved in all areas under the growth stage, ever since the

Fall. It was from the top of the growth stage that Adam and Eve fell and therefore it is out of this territory that Satan took them. God works only indirectly during the growing period; He is involved, but not completely. Furthermore, because of original sin, it is very difficult for God to work with fallen man. Fortunately, in the last stage, the completion stage, Satan cannot work, and after the Blessing, we are beyond Satan's accusation.

However, our nature as fallen man is an inheritance of six thousand years, not only from our direct physical ancestors, but also in the sense that we inherit all the results of those six thousand years of history. So even though the True Parents could take away our original sin through the matching and engagement ceremony, and the Blessing, we may still have many kinds of serious, evil habits.

Original sin and habit are different. What is original sin? It is the essence of the nature of evil, and the fallen nature of the Archangel. In other words, because of the condition of original sin, Satan can accuse us, claim us and dominate us. It is a very serious condition. That is what the True Parents have removed through the Blessing. Nevertheless, the habits we have acquired through daily life remain. Of course, after the Blessing, because of our determination, or because of a change in our daily lifestyle, or because of the divine internal condition, our life is somewhat different.

We have changed. But still we have many kinds of fallen world habits. Do you find it to be so? Yes. This is the unique situation of our generation. It will be different for the next generation, that is, our sons and daughters, and even more for the future generations.

Let me give an example. Two people asked to evaluate the same thing may give different answers, because each is at a different stage. Contrast the pure attitude of a blessed child with the attitude of someone who has already had many terrible experiences with the fallen world. Their viewpoints are quite different.

After the Blessing, we may apply ourselves to the task of moving on toward God's ideal. How are we to get rid of the fallen world habits? It's a very important question. If we don't get rid of them, we will maintain the same external lifestyle, even though our original sin has been removed. But Heavenly Father and True Parents want you to be changed not only internally but in your lifestyle itself.

One very fortunate advantage is that the effect of your own determination, under Heavenly Father's indirect dominion, after the Blessing, is completely different from that under Satan's dominion. Before the Blessing, though the determination may be the same, the result is different, because Satan cannot interfere with your actions. So after the Blessing, please try this out. Find out what good results you can gain from your determination. You can make many changes for the better. There is no Satan. It's a very important internal difference. By the same token, there may be some who, before the Blessing, had little experience of public life in our movement, but who after the Blessing grow very quickly.

Nevertheless, fallen habits do make things difficult for blessed couples. The members of an ideal family, subject and object, should be ideal people; they should have absolutely no fallen habits. In reality, it's difficult for all blessed couples. However, we face this path for only one historical moment; we don't want to see this situation repeated, do we? This is the one chance. There is no other way.

The ideal family is built on ideal circumstances, including an ideal external environment. But our environment is still connected with the satanic world; it is not yet restored. So in your daily life you are continually under many influences, invisible and visible. Think of it: if our local neighborhood and everywhere was beautiful and pure, according to God's original plan, how different it would be! What is the difficulty? It is that the ideal family needs the foundation of an ideal environment, but our own generation unfortunately faces the reality of this fallen world. We are not the ideal, joyful family, but we are trying to build such an ideal family. Therefore, through our hard work, witnessing, we try to restore this world.

Most of you here are engaged, right? You are really free: there is no baby yet; you don't have to worry about your home and financial situation. But your elder brothers and sisters are for the most part very concerned about their financial situation, not only thinking about it, but having to deal with the details every day. The ideal family in the Garden of Eden, the Kingdom of Heaven, would have had no money worries! Everything was already arranged for the ideal family. So here is another kind of difficulty that we have to face as we build our ideal family.

The greatest difficulty of all is that, whereas the ideal family should be built of ideal people, we ourselves are not ideal people. The ideal family belongs above the top of the completion stage of the growing period, after perfection. But because of the principle of Restoration we must try to build the ideal family in the perfection stage; we are husband and wife with children but we are not yet perfected.

For one person to attain perfection is not easy. But the reality at present for a blessed couple is that one husband who is not yet perfect, with his wife who is not yet perfect, must take care of their own child. Do your blessed children have original sin? No. But will they develop fallen habits? They can pick up fallen world habits very easily. In this sense, to have a child at all is a burden.

The final goal for each blessed couple is the ideal family. But a blessed member, not yet perfect, with a wife or husband likewise, must look after their own children. It would be ideal for us to have no

relationship at all after the Blessing, not living together at all, in order to focus completely on attaining ideal manhood and womanhood, and then have children.



Then the children would not connect with any evil habits, and an ideal family could easily be created. This would be the best method. Do you want to try it then? There is one very big difficulty with this ideal method: our youth doesn't last long enough! Our physical lifetime is limited, and we need to gain physical children. If we were simply comparing ourselves with righteous people and saints of the past, we could apply such a method, but actually, we need ideal children. Thus, we have to bear all three kinds of burdens at the same time.

Many members start to have doubts about the prospect of an ideal family as they observe the reality of the blessed families. They see the hard work and struggles of the families trying to manage their life. But if you understand the situation, you realize what a difficult way this is to go. Furthermore, you realize that there is no other way! It's impossible for us to give up.

The restoration is not completed. Our original mind feels a certain pressure concerning our public mission as compared with our family life. According to the Principle, God's love is the source and motivation of our joy and happiness; it is most precious. After gaining God's ideal on the basis of our ideal family, there is no pressure. There is complete freedom and joy. But our original mind understands God's heart at present: God himself is not yet completely happy.

Usually, in all circumstances we have to think about our public mission. If we focus for twenty-four straight hours on our public mission, and next day we take care of our family for just one hour, our mind is uncomfortable. What this means is that in our original mind we understand God's situation, God's heart. Still, having to cope with this tension between our public mission and our joyful family life is not easy; it's not the ideal family at all.

Therefore, as for myself, I am determined that we are going to attain the ideal family, though we cannot reach that goal right away. You and I, our generation, should determine to set ourselves this goal of creating an ideal family; but we have to realize that we have not yet reached the goal. Day by day, we are going this path, but still we haven't gained the ideal. If you don't understand this clearly, you will often find yourself struggling and going through difficulties.

Let's look at the True Parent's family. I know their lifestyle and daily schedule very well. Father used to have breakfast at 7 a.m. with several leaders, but not with his own children. For less than two months now, the children have been joining the Parents, but before then it was only Church leaders who ate breakfast with them. Think about the children's feelings. One of them remarked to the Parents once that if there were no disciples at the dining table Father's food would have no taste. What a shameful situation! Of course, having a chance to eat with the True Parents every day is a great blessing, and usually my feeling is that it is not only for my sake but that I am representing all members. But I felt really ashamed after that child's one sentence.

Furthermore, how do the True Parents' feel? Father can be joyful with his children, and he can also be joyful with us; but you can imagine that we cannot compare with his own children in giving him joy. Nevertheless, until earlier this year, he organized his daily life this way, even as far as dining. He himself is still leading a sacrificial life. Throughout his life, how much time has Father spent with his own children? Not much at all.

The children normally go off to school early. They get up, they greet their parents by kneeling and bowing, and kissing them, or sometimes if the Parents are already at the dining table they simply greet them with a kiss, and then they say goodbye. And when they come back home, almost always Father is out of the house. Instead, nearly every night the Parents visit each child's room to kiss them as they sleep and, I'm sure, to pray for them, since Father spends almost all the time with members.

So Father himself organizes his own life without too much thought of ideal circumstances for the ideal family. We blessed couples cannot compare ourselves with our True Parents' family. Our distance from them is, at minimum, twenty-one years. They have already fulfilled their three seven-year courses. We start this year. So my understanding is that after twenty-one years, if we have fulfilled our responsibility and can manage our family life by the standard that the True Parents presently maintain, we will be able to compare our life with theirs. However, the fact is that we have already spent a lot of time on our own family, more than the True Parents presently do. Think of the elder couples. Actually, we are ashamed.

And one thing. Please keep this advice. No matter how concerned you are for your baby, your child, never mention anything in front of the True Parents. Father himself didn't take care of his own child, his own first son. Because of his standard, because of his value, because of his character, we cannot understand how pained his heart was as his eldest son grew up. He is the owner of love.

He is really the man of God's heart. So we never heard any mention of it, and couldn't catch how much he hurt during the growth of his own eldest son. He has already done this, and we are to follow the same pattern. We can never make any excuse. We have the good fortune to be able to take care of our own children. You can mention anything to me, to other leaders, or to other members, but please never mention anything in front of him. Do you understand my heart?

Archangel, child and husband

The next point I would like to clarify is the question that many of you are asking: until when is your fiance in the Archangel's position? Then for how long is he in the child position? And in the husband position?

My overall feeling is that you are too sensitive to this matter, on both sides (fiance and fiancée). Sometimes we are too sensitive to the matter of Abel and Cain, aren't we? Suppose Cain fulfills his responsibility but Abel doesn't: is that any better than if it's the other way around? No, it's not. It's exactly the same situation here, I'm sorry to say, sisters. The most important thing is the fulfillment of your responsibility.

What is Eve's responsibility? To guide and teach the Archangel. Communicate with your fiance concerning your understanding of the Principle, your understanding of the True Parents, and your understanding of heartistic daily life. In some cases, he is more advanced than you. If so, then don't ever talk loudly about Eve and the Archangel; it's dangerous for you.

If you cannot guide your fiance concerning the heart, you need to quickly regain your original position. After the Holy Wine Ceremony, you need to quickly develop your heart and your internal character. There is a fundamental difference before and after that ceremony. After the Holy Wine Ceremony, what is your goal? To fulfill the responsibility of Eve. And what is Eve's responsibility? To unite with Adam. To unite completely with Adam.

Every day you should check your heart, your internal character, your daily life, and the content of your faith, to see how far you are from your True Parents. True Father is your Adam. If you want to talk about Eve, then you must realize that Adam is your True Father. Without connecting in heart with True Father, without developing a character similar to his, you should never talk about Eve. Thus, after the matching or the blessing, you really need to try to develop your heart.

The Archangel's responsibility is very easy: follow you, obey you, glorify you. "Oh, my wonderful fiancée!" That's all. But your responsibility is not easy. Eve's responsibility is to unite completely with Adam, centered upon God. Please evaluate yourself, how you are doing in this process. It is the most important condition.

Whenever I visit local centers and find the members so sensitive to this issue, Eve, Archangel, and so on, I have to laugh to myself. Think about the Holy Wine Ceremony. First Father gives you the cup. The meaning is not only related to wine. Father wants to pass on to you his character and his precious value and his heart. You are in the middle position, which is very important.

Adam's second son, Noah's second son: the second son is so important, like a bridge. You, then, are like a bridge between your Adam and your Archangel. So please consider every day how you will take on True

Father's character, the True Parents' heart. Without you, the Archangel has no way to go. I am sorry to have to say it, but generally, it is difficult for a brother to develop his heart to reach the True Parents' standard. But on the sister's side, it is relatively easy; it is her nature.

Before you come to live together physically, the sister needs to attain a certain standard in Father's heart. This is not only for you. It is very important also for your blessed children. If you sisters have not yet reached a certain standard as Eve, but your Archangel has obediently followed, how difficult it will be for you! You will really be in trouble. So before you ask any duty of your spouse, first check whether or not your position according to the Principle is correct.



The other case is where Eve is too young, and even the Archangel needs to guide her in heart. In the beginning, Eve needed certp.in guidance from the Archangel. Even though you hold the title "Eve," if your concept is that you are always right and he is always wrong and he should just follow you, it is unprincipled. Absolutely, if you are developed you can guide him. But if you lack development it is you who needs his guidance. Anyhow, brothers, before you begin to live together physically, your position is that of the Archangel. That is not bad: even as the Archangel, you can sometimes guide her.

We can go into the details of the stages for the brother, from Archangel to child to husband. But actually the child stage is largely conceptual. Originally the Archangel influenced Eve and Eve influenced Adam. In restoration, the Messiah is in Adam's position, and the influence runs the opposite way: from Messiah to Eve and then to Archangel, who, restored, can then become husband. Originally, if Eve had completely inherited Adam's character, then Adam would have come to be in a parent's position; in restoration of this, the fulfillment of Eve's responsibility implies that temporarily, even for a short time, her position is mother to her husband. She inherits the True Parents' nature, and in this sense goes through a stage of being a Parent.

Symbolically, when you received the Holy Wine from Father, your fiancé was waiting; his time had not come. Through the condition of the Holy Wine, you are reborn. Then Father and you temporarily take up the position of parents, and together you give rebirth to your husband. In this symbolic process of restoration, we can imagine a period of childhood. But you should realize that in the reality of this process you first should inherit Father's character in actuality. Can you reach his standard before you take up a relationship of wife and husband? No, it is impossible. So it is symbolic.

Please understand it is a simple manner. The Archangel becomes husband. Don't focus on the child stage. After your forty-day condition, when you come together physically, you form a husband and wife relationship.

Thus, before thinking in terms of Eve's position and the Archangel's position, it's better for your attitude to be that of respect for each other. It's not a sin for Eve to respect the Archangel, is it? It's a believer's main attitude: respect anyone. Respect everybody. And you in the Archangel position, you brothers: respect your fiancée. It's natural. Just focus on inheriting God's and the True Parents' character. If you do, then you will have no problem. The attitude most to be respected in someone is their respect for the True Parents. If I really respect the True Parents and attend them, then naturally a person of faith can respect me.

Separation

Sometimes we find it difficult to understand the separation period, during engagement or after the Blessing. What does it mean?

Through history there have been many blessed people, saints and sages. The important thing, before we ask, for any kind of blessing, is to make the most of the blessings we have already received. I always try hard to keep the content of my blessings. Then fresh blessings come to me. Even though I never ask for any new blessing, I find that a new blessing has already come. If you are hungering after a blessing, usually your mind is uncomfortable: you're impatiently waiting for that blessing. But please change your emphasis. If you hold on to the content of the blessing you have already received, then, without your asking, new blessings will come to you. In our lifestyle we cannot be impatient for blessings. If you try to keep the content of your blessings, then your internal lifestyle will be naturally thankful and joyful and happy. Don't be impatient.

Concern for the family's future

What things are you concerned about for your future? A house, your financial situation, your children's education? I don't think you engaged couples are worrying about those things at present. They are serious matters! Later, you will be facing such questions.

Are they really serious problems, or not? Of course, yes, there is a big problem in our external situation. Because of that, Father has been concerned about American couples for several years now, trying to build a good financial foundation with businesses.

Think of it: Father doesn't face too many financial problems for his own family, since many members attend him. But he is concerned about the future of the blessed families. Don't worry how you will manage with your first child and your second child. Father is taking care of all details for thousands and thousands of blessed families, through fishing and other marine businesses, restaurant chains, etc. There is already a seafood restaurant in Boston. Father's method is to have some leader set a good example, and when there is success it is quickly developed. There are car repair companies, factories, Il Hwa ginseng stores, and so on; he thought of all of these, and they multiply in each state and each city. His idea for the future is that every family with three or more children should be in charge of one center or store or branch.

Thus I don't think our financial situation is really so serious. You are concerned about money, but you cannot compare yourselves with the True Parents and the elder blessed couples, and what they went through. You worry about kindergarten and primary school and middle school, etc., but the True Children never had a chance to graduate from our own kindergarten or primary school, middle school or high school. It's really a shame, a painful thing, since the blessed children really need to be educated in our own schools. Anyhow, even though his children couldn't attend our own schools, Father is preparing everything for the blessed children. Already in Korea we have our own primary school, middle school and high school, and we are preparing our university. Before such Parents, we should be too ashamed to be worrying about our own children's education.

But there is another, most serious concern for the future of the blessed families. The most precious thing for our future dignity is the quality of our faith, our heart. What kind of world is the ideal world? It is God's direct dominion, where everybody attends the True Parents, everybody believes in God. In such a society, what is the most important thing? Our faith. So that we naturally attend the True Parents and God. The most valuable asset for your children and your grandchildren is your faith, your way of life, your heart. This is the thing to be most concerned about.

How is it for a blessed child whose parents' faith is not very good? In the future ideal world, there cannot be any barriers. It will be impossible to erase or cover up the reality of our life. Our descendants will completely inherit the true content of our daily life and our life of faith. Some will be proud, and some will be ashamed, not only one time but for all time, for eternity. Thus the present quality of the life of the blessed couples is very important, since it directly influences their descendants.

Furthermore, how will you be able to control the original mind and the faith of your children and grandchildren? It is difficult enough for you to control your body and mind. Your children have their own minds and bodies; they are not yours. So blessed couples really need to pray seriously: "Heavenly Father, please guide my child! Please educate my son and my daughter." There is no other way. Not only blessed couples, but all parents want to have wonderful sons and daughters. The desire of any parent is that their children should be the best, number one, the most intelligent in school, for example, or excelling in sport, or having perfect health. But for our future society, the most important quality is internal character: what kind of heart and faith will our children have? How can we ensure the proper development of our children's internal character?

Husband and wife become one, completely, physically, and out of the union a baby is born. But we know from Father's teaching that in the vertical sense the union should be not only a physical union but a union of heart, so that the two become completely one spiritually as well as physically. Ideally the baby is born out of the physical unity and the spiritual and heartistic unity. So many people have been born out of mere physical union. But the baby that is born out of complete unity of heart is truly the ideal child. Such unity is not easy to achieve, is it?

The base line is the True Parents, and God Himself. Each spouse must first form the relationship of unity with True Parents and God; otherwise true unity of heart with each other will be impossible. The relationships that the husband and wife each has with the True Parents and God is of utmost importance, since it directly affects the character of the baby. Father has said that the child of a blessed couple is the evidence of the parents' external and internal lifestyle. A baby can be born without your complete unity of heart with your spouse; but if you want an ideal baby you must try to unite in heart.

Another word of Father's is that a blessed child's education must begin before birth, before delivery, before conception! It's common sense to begin educating a child after it is born, but Father's viewpoint is that it's already too late to begin then. Even before it is conceived, a child needs the parents' loyalty and heartistic relation with God and the True Parents. I sincerely want to guide you in this matter; otherwise you will not be able to control your own child, especially concerning internal character.

So many times you will need for Heavenly Father's support, and for the help of spirit world. If you have no foundation, how will you suddenly be able to ask for their help with your child? Before you even conceive a child, develop a relation of heart with spirit world and Heavenly Father through your daily life as a blessed couple. Then you will easily be able to ask Heavenly Father for help, and He will be able to support you, on the invisible side. Don't be proud of external techniques or your intelligence. The most important point is internal character: how to serve and attend God.

Think of it this way. Sometimes during a service you hear a testimony, a foreign missionary's, perhaps. When you listen to the story of someone's sacrificial life, your original mind is deeply moved. We often have such experiences. This is exactly the same: Heavenly Father himself, and the spirit world, are moved to see someone living in a sacrificial way, and want to support him. How will they support? Through lineage. Please remember: everything is inevitably passed on, good things and bad things, through the lineage. Even before the Blessing you should set good conditions, but especially after the Blessing the exact content of your daily life is very important, since everything is passed on to the next generation through your lineage.

Now in Korea the oldest blessed children are 18, 17 and 16. Sometimes I tell them they are the kings and queens of their own parents, because they can liberate them or they can imprison them. A king has a lot of power over his subjects. Likewise, a blessed child has power over his parents. No matter how wonderful the position and the activities of a blessed couple are, if their child is unfaithful and causes trouble, how pained the parents' heart will be! Who would be able to liberate them? Thus the blessed children are king. If they grow to follow Heavenly rules, keeping the precious blessed substance and lineage and heart, how valuable it is! This is your fundamental concern as a blessed couple. Too many couples are overly concerned about their financial situation: that's peanuts.

How, then, do you educate your child even before conception? By living a wonderful daily life as a blessed couple. All results and all your loyalty will accumulate in spirit world, which is already prepared to pass everything on to your blessed child. It's too late to wait until birth, or until conception, because your desire has no limits. After a baby is born, he learns from any thing. What's most important is the parents' lifestyle. It's not easy to change your lifestyle after you conceive your child; nor can you suddenly change your lifestyle and attitudes just because your baby is born. It's too late.

A tiny baby doesn't understand his parents. By the time he's six or seven years old, it's too late. Because of the pure nature of the blessed children, they are very easily influenced by their circumstances. They are so sensitive to the way their parents live. So please remember this, and set a certain family tradition before you have children, concerning your prayer life, how you attend the True Parents, how you serve, how you focus on your public mission, how you discuss things with other couples... everything.

If your children can grow up completely in the truth, in faithful circumstances, then they will become strong in facing the outside world. The world is still terrible; we must give our children the strongest protection. They may go through our own kindergarten, our own Sunday school, our own primary, middle and high schools, and even our own university, but after that they will still be intensely interested in the outside world.

Perhaps there will be no problems until they are 12 or 13 years old, but then they very quickly become fascinated. They see the freedom and the "good life." A little baby will joyfully follow his parents, from Sunday morning Pledge Service and through the whole week. But as teenagers they will start to think that there is no freedom concerning pledge and morning services, and sometimes they may simply not want to take part. Then what will you do? Before they reach that stage, you must really educate them through your own daily life. How joyful will their own daddy and mommy be in their life of faith? Children need a wonderful life of complete happiness with their parents and their brothers and sisters.

Here is one example. When your first baby is born, you may have only one room. But in that room you keep one tiny corner as a holy place, and your child is accustomed to seeing daddy and mommy kneel down there to pray sincerely, sometimes with white gowns for a special ceremony. Even before they are old enough for us to explain this to them, we should already have guided them into an understanding. Even as a small baby he should become familiar with Sunday Pledge Service and so on.

In the ideal, restored world there will be no need for Pledge Services. But because of the terrible state of

the world now, we need to educate our children. Let them build up all kinds of good memories. Please establish Sunday as a memorial day, and celebrate God's Day, Parent's Day, Children's Day more meaningfully than the outside world celebrates Christmas or Thanksgiving.

Through such specially joyful days, with gift-giving, and your explanation of the meaning of the celebration, you will continually be able to educate them. After each Sunday Pledge Service you can give family education. You should have a family service every day, with the emphasis not on some schedule of praying and singing songs but on the importance of such meetings as the time for guidance, and as the time for listening to the children as they explain what's on their mind, so that we can tell them what is good and what is bad.

With such a daily lifestyle, from an early age they should always be wanting to report everything to mommy and daddy. Then, later on, when they face some struggles or difficulties, they will easily be able to draw upon the close relation they have built up, sharing everything with their parents. Otherwise there will be many times when, because the relation was not close enough, they hold back, ashamed or afraid to discuss something.

The blessed children can easily compare. They will visit their friend's home. Because they are so pure, they are very sensitive; even if externally everything is going smoothly, they will know if there is some internal struggle or fight between the parents, and the children will talk amongst each other. Again, I say, the most important thing is how we can guide them by our own daily life.

You must also educate them how to relate to God. In the beginning, they may confuse the True Parents and God, because of the photo. But later you can explain the difference. Their prayer will be very pure, more than ours. We will be able to learn from them.

Every evening the family can sing songs and pray, and read Father's words, each child taking turn to lead one day. Upon entering the house or the room, the parents bow, or kneel down to pray in the holy place; the children will naturally follow that example when they come inside or when they return from school, even without the parents' demanding it of them.

If someone gives a gift of a cookie, we usually divide it and offer one share for God and the True Parents, saving it on a special dish in the holy place. That portion is offered to a guest, or if no guest comes then we can later enjoy it ourselves. The first is for God. It is a simple habit, but it's a way for them to learn about God and the True Parents.

Still there can be no guarantee. The evil world surrounds us. We can never stop being concerned for our children's future. But, for all our concern, we may find that circumstances prevent us from taking proper care. In that case, we believe, if we focus on our public mission then Heavenly Father will guide and protect our family. The important thing is the content of our prayer. Of course, we pray about our family's future, but we mustn't let that take priority over the fundamental concerns.

One final point. Although there is external hardship at present in the American family, you are really fortunate compared with what our Parents and the early blessed couples faced. So don't worry about external difficulties. Just keep focused on the fundamental concerns, and everything else will work out.

Substance, lineage, and heart

The Blessing has three essential aspects: "blessed substance," "blessed lineage," and "blessed heart." If you try to keep the content of the Blessing you will naturally try to hold on to substance and lineage and heart. Before the Blessing and after the Blessing your *substance* itself is fundamentally different. The Blessing is not mere marriage; it is one all-important process of salvation, restoration. Think about your substantial self: after the Blessing, you are fundamentally different from before. Your eyes, your ears, your nose, your **mouth**, all your five senses come under the Principle. After the Blessing you should see things selectively. There are all kinds of things going on in this noisy world, but you should be discerning.

Just before the Blessing and just afterwards, you are the same externally. Well, you're very excited, and the color of your face changes a little perhaps! Nevertheless, after the Blessing, Satan has nothing to do with you at all. You are completely different internally; you are of divine substance. So you should hold on to your divine condition.

Of course, just after the Blessing you are not yet perfected. But if you maintain your focus and hold on to your divine heritage, then you will easily be able to reach perfection during the completion period, the third stage.

About *lineage*, "blood lineage." Before the blessing we are of Satan's lineage. But by the Blessing we completely change our lineage: we are not of divine lineage, of God's lineage. We should hold on to this lineage. Please never forget the process that brought about Adam and Eve's fall: they didn't follow Heavenly Father's direction, the heavenly rule. We blessed couples absolutely must follow that heavenly rule during our growing period.

After you reach perfection, uniting with your spouse in perfect love, there will be no doubt that you can keep the heavenly lineage. But before that point, there can sometimes be danger. So you must hold on to

God's lineage, as more precious than life itself. No matter what the circumstances, you should keep this lineage. It is not only for your own sake, but for the sake of your descendants. It is absolutely important that you stay pure, clear.

Thirdly is blessed *heart*. The only way your internal heart can develop is through attendance. Of course, we love the True Parents and we love God, and we have a general understanding of heart. To grow to perfection of heart there really is no way other than attendance. Without sincere and loyal love, we cannot attend. But if you truly attend God and the True Parents, your heart will naturally grow to its ultimate fulfillment.

Heart is the final goal. If we gain fulfillment of heart, then there will be no problems concerning lineage and substance, and we will naturally reach perfection.

As I said, after the Blessing Satan cannot accuse you. However, there are many angels, and saints and sages of history, who can accuse you. It is a serious matter. They regard blessed couples as Heavenly Father's sons and daughters, with precious substantial value. Archangels and angels have only a spirit self; thus their viewpoint is that we couples of substance should attend, help and glorify God all the more. If after the Blessing we fail to keep our position, angels will accuse us.

Furthermore, the saints and sages of the past who conducted their life with such great sacrifice will compare their lives with those of the blessed couples, even though they themselves have no relation of heart with God. In fact, there can be no relation of heart below the third stage of growth. The Blessing itself is a minimum requirement for such a relation of heart. So they will accuse blessed couples who do not fulfill their responsibility: "How can you be living this way, even though you have a heart relationship with Heavenly Father?" They don't understand heart, but they lived such wonderful lives of sacrifice. As Father has often told us, when we enter spirit world we meet not only God and Satan, but many people and angels. We must be sure that we will be able to enter freely.

After the Blessing, regard you own hand, your face, your body, as divine substance. And remember that you have become true sons and daughters of the True Parents; your lineage is God's lineage. And finally, develop your heart.