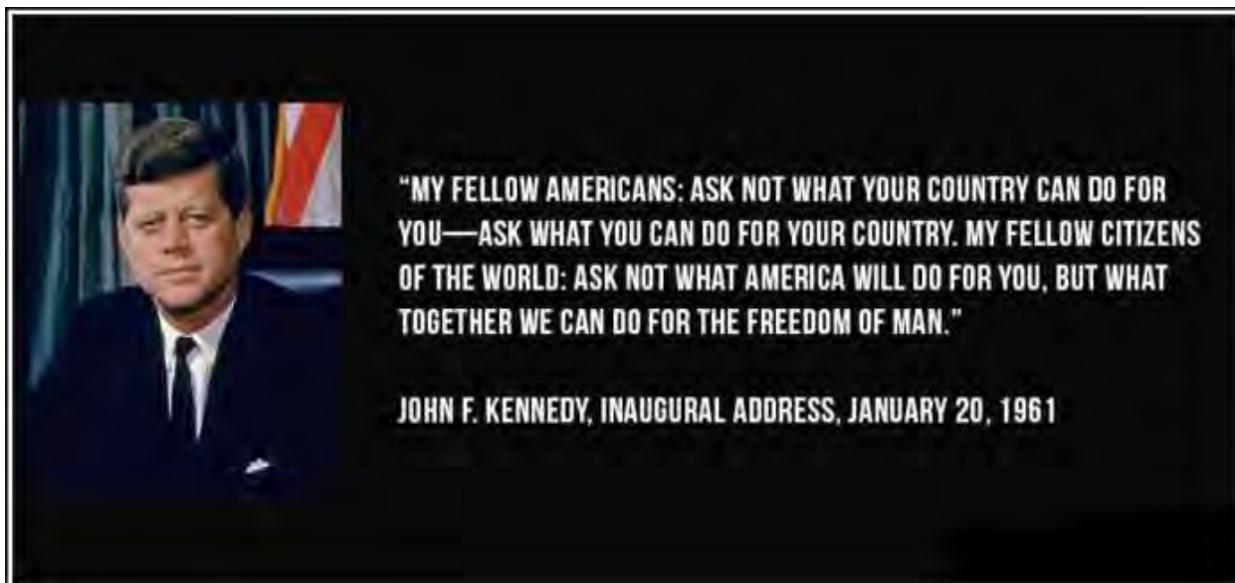


Election in Cheon Il Guk

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In times of old, "election" referred to the decree of God. In modern times, the voice of the people is the voice of God. Cheon Il Guk elections combine the voices of God and the people.

How? By choosing office-holders by lot from a slate of candidates assembled through popular elections, in which all citizens, regardless of race, religion, gender or nationality, can vote.

This is True Father's alternative to the secular method of elections. It hearkens back to how Jesus' followers replaced Judas among the Twelve: "So they nominated two men ... Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen...'" Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles."

This requires a foundation of unity. We see strong unity in the apostolic church: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with [Jesus'] brethren."

The government's task is to nurture this divine unity and educate everyone on the issues. Governing is not supposed to be complicated. It is not the vocation of a few; it is the responsibility of all. Most government positions in Cheon Il Guk are temporary and, as a result, people of all vocations will participate.

To consider choosing by lot as a random matter of chance is to cheapen it. The wind blows a fire that consumes your house and leaves your neighbor's standing. Chance? No; an act of God. Your baby has a birth defect, another's doesn't. Chance? No; an act of God.

In such a culture, the happiness of one is the happiness of all, and the suffering of one is the suffering of all. Your neighbor takes you in. Your community supports your family. No one is to blame. We all are here by grace. The office-holder is there by grace.

This eliminates pride and resentment. On the foundation of education, discussion and debate, the nation leaves the final choice to God.

Presently, membership in the Eui Won, the Assembly, is Cheon Il Guk's only elected position. Nevertheless, the qualifications for every other office are up to the Eui Won, and thus may include election.

(Citations: Acts 1:14, 23-26; see also Chambumo Gyeong 10-1-2 #16, 8-3-2 #19 and Sermons Vol. 239-309, 1992.12.09: "We will use both direct and indirect elections and hold a lottery in the end, so Heaven can choose. This is our election system. This way more women will win election than men. The result will be that women hold the dominion over the men and will create a better nation than men have created.")