

4 Siblings' Love at the Center of a True Family – Love of Brothers and Sisters

True Parents' Words

Why do we need brothers and sisters? It is so that a brother, by looking at his younger and elder sisters, can understand, "Oh, that's how our mother was as she grew up!" Through them he sees the process of his mother growing up. Also, a sister observes carefully how her elder or younger brother grows up to understand how her father grew up and lived. This is the love among siblings; you become one by growing up like this. That's the value of loving your brothers and sisters. [CSG 3.2.5:1]

The relationship of brothers and sisters is connected to both the vertical and horizontal planes. If we say the relationship between Adam and Eve is horizontal, then that between God and Adam and Eve is vertical. East and west form only a horizontal line. This is why two linear dimensions that form a plane are necessary. And then the front-back aspect gives the required third dimension. Only the love between brothers and sisters expands the love of the family to a new dimension. Only through adding that love can a sphere of love come into being. That ideal sphere represents the highest standard of hope for men and women. Sons and daughters in substance are the embodiment of the love God hoped for at the time of creation. These sons and daughters will be able to inherit heaven and earth and the love that represents God. These sons and daughters grow up as brothers and sisters, and they mature. When these children grow up, they must find their father and mother, and the father and mother must find their sons and daughters. Through this encounter, they become complete. This is the principle of counterparts. [CSG 3.2.5:2]

Man is the subject of life who contains the seed of life that woman receives. This is why we say that man represents the east and woman the west. The sun rises in the east, and the west receives the sun. An axis plus east and west together make four directions. Up and down, east and west form a cross but not a sphere. That's why we need brothers and sisters. Through brothers and sisters, a nation arises and all humankind arises. So, it is brothers and sisters who form the sphere. Brothers and sisters expand to become a people and the world. So, the love of siblings relates to the love of the world. A family in which many brothers and sisters grow up is like the model needed to create the ideal, the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God on earth and in heaven. [CSG 3.2.5:4]

Sharing Thoughts

This is a story about what happened in a poor seaside village of the Netherlands. A strong hurricane bared its white teeth, and the roaring waves became stronger as night came. All the people of the village came out to the seaside. They were anxiously waiting for the rescue team which had gone out to save the people who had gone out fishing and could not return. As time passed, the boat that the rescue team had taken pushed through the ferocious waves and thick darkness and approached the shore. The rescue team that came up on the land said there was still one person they had not been able to save. That was because the rescue boat was too small, and they could not help but leave that person there and come back.

"If we had saved that person and brought him back in the boat, the rescue boat would have sunk, and we all would have died. That one remaining person must be saved quickly. We are short of helping hands, so people who will go together to save that person, please come forward."

The captain of the rescue team looked around at the people who had gathered and pleaded with them, but no one came forward readily.

“My son, please don’t go. Ten years ago, there was a shipwreck, and your father died. And a few days ago, your elder brother went out to catch fish, and since then we haven’t had any news of him, have we? Now you are the only one I have left.”

“Mother, nevertheless I will go. If we all think that this kind of dangerous work must be done by someone else, what will happen? Mother, this time I will definitely save that person and come back. When there is something that can be done for someone else, no one should ignore that.”

The boy embraced his mother, went forward and followed the captain. The rescue team went out into the dark sea. After some time had passed, the boat that the rescue team had taken appeared.

“Mother, we saved the person who remained alone in the sea. It was my elder brother who went out fishing several days ago and about whom we had no news. I rescued my brother!”

The people who had been watching the dark sea with tense hearts cheered and shouted hurrah together. The sacrificial attitude of the young boy who, despite his own danger, went out on the rough sea, brought about the rescue of his elder brother.

In this story, the young boy in the face of danger followed the rescue team captain. Because of that, he was able to rescue his elder brother who had gone out to catch fish but was in danger of dying. In our world there are also many cases of people who boldly leap into situations, despite the risk to their own life, to save other people’s lives. In a life-and-death situation, a friend who puts his life on the line and saves us becomes the savior of our life; even if we want to, throughout our entire life we can never forget that friend.

Brothers and sisters should live for each other. My individual position is not made just for or of myself. When my brothers and sisters give me recognition, I can receive it and become perfect. We should be able to receive the recognition of people, saying, “That brother is really a true person.” Ultimately my individual perfection does not come from myself alone; it depends on my counterparts.

Accordingly, we should think of our neighbor not as someone different but rather as our own brother. When this kind of brotherly love develops to love of humanity, that neighbor becomes a brother like me and the same kind of citizen as I am. We can become people who live together on our earth. As our True Parents’ words indicate, brothers develop and become national citizens and world citizens. Accordingly, he said, “Brotherly love flows through love for the world” and “A family where many brothers and sisters are growing up is like the model for making the ideal kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of heaven on earth and the kingdom of heaven in the spirit world.”

*** Points for contemplation**

- 1) When we think of humankind as brothers and sisters sharing love, how does this compare to the way we have looked at people until now?
- 2) Let’s think about what kind of ideas the young boy had who followed the rescue team captain.
- 3) Think about situations where and when brotherly love can develop into love for humankind.