



Month 3, Day 1 (of the Cheon Il Guk Calendar)

BACKGROUND

The engagement ceremony of Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han, on the 1st day of the 3rd lunar month in 1960 (27th March) at the original *Cheongpa-dong* headquarters church in Seoul, marked the day on which 'True Parents publicly appeared on earth. Therefore, in the following year 'True Parents retroactively proclaimed that 1st March 1960 was the first Parents' Day. On the 35th Parents' Day in 1994, they instructed that the names of all major church holy days should include the term "True," so the day was renamed 'True Parents' Day.

SIGNIFICANCE

If Adam and Eve had become the God-centred 'True Parents, Parents' Day would have been established right then and there. However, the achievement of Parents' Day was delayed due to the Fall of Adam and Eve, and God has worked His providence to this day to realise it. Parents' Day was instituted on the foundation of 'True Parents' success in spiritually and physically indemnifying the failures of Adam and Eve.

TRUE PARENTS' WORDS

Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book 11 Chapter 5 Section 1

24. The world needs God's sons and daughters who, on God's behalf, liberate all humankind and bring happiness to all people. Here we find the purpose for which Jesus came to earth. Parents' Day is the very day that heaven and earth have been hoping for. The hope of present-day Christians all over the world is to see the day of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. That day has come; it is Parents' Day. Even though physically we are already fully grown, we must receive the Parents and be born again. Regardless of how deep our faith was, before Parents' Day we could not stand in a position closer to God than adopted children. When Jesus comes again, he will come with the Father's mission; he comes as the True Father to make us true children. (1966/03/22)

Cham Bu Mo Gyeong, Book 5 Chapter 3 Section 2

5. Up to this point, the lineage of True Parents, from whom people were to have been born into goodness, has not appeared on earth. This is why people today are like orphans. In short, they are born as sons and daughters of the enemy, that is, as sons and daughters of Satan. From the viewpoint of God's law of love, all people are destined to return to the heavenly kingdom, but today's situation is that Satan has bound us with chains and is ravaging us to prevent us from leaving him. Parents' Day is the starting point of the hope of humankind, when we can finally sever the chains that bind us to death, and take the path of life. (1971/03/27)

7. The Messiah is the person who comes in the position of having transcended fallen nature. He is equipped with God's love and is the original, ideal model of masculinity, with his body and mind united as one. A person like this comes to earth in order to become the centre and make all the world's people resemble him so that they are qualified to enter the kingdom of heaven. But what does that Messiah have to find? He comes as the Bridegroom, looking for his Bride. The Bride is in the position of Eve. Since Eve was lost in the Garden of Eden, the Messiah must come to earth and find the new Eve.

In the Unification Church, Parents' Day marks the fulfilment of this search. It is the first time in history that a day with the title "True Parents" was ever declared. This day was established to celebrate the day on which a man and woman became husband and wife based on the original love of God. It celebrates the beginning of the ideal realm of human completion that God has long desired. It celebrates the complete unity of the mind and body of a man and the mind and body of a woman, achieved horizontally with God as the centre. (1983/06/11)

8. Since the ancestors of humanity fell, there are no children of God's direct lineage whom He can love; instead there are only adopted children. God needs to bequeath His grand endeavour of creating heaven and earth to someone, but there are only adopted children from a different bloodline, and do you think He wants to bequeath it to them?

If you were a parent, would you want to bequeath the great work you had achieved in heaven and on earth to a stranger's child who shows up uninvited to your house and claims that he is your son? It goes against the original, fundamental rule of creation. God wants to bequeath His great work of creation to His original son and daughter. History has been the quest to find this original son and original daughter.

The Lord at his Second Advent is the person who comes with the qualifications and mission of the true Son of God. Therefore, the most excellent Bride is she who will become the wife of the Returning Lord. Together they will become the Father and Mother of humankind. Once the Father and Mother emerge, they will give birth to sons and daughters. The day when the Father and Mother appeared was none other than Parents' Day.

This day is a proud day that is celebrated only in the Unification Church. Now for the first time in history, Parents' Day has come into being. What this means is that the Parents have finally come who represent the lost glory of God, who celebrate the coming victory of humankind, and who exercise the authority to judge evil by the law of public righteousness. This is the gospel of gospels.

Parents' Day was proclaimed on the 1st day of the 3rd lunar month. If the first human beings had not fallen, we would not have needed to declare Parents' Day. If Adam and Eve had not fallen, but instead had grown to perfection and given birth to children, the day when their first child called them Mother and Father automatically would have been both Parents' Day and God's Day. (1969/01/01)

THINGS TO DISCUSS

(Ask the question in bold first and discuss with your family or small group before reading the additional notes)

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

(Clue: No, it's not the wedding between Mr. Ram and Mrs. Ewe.)

The last book of the Bible is called Revelation, in which a follower of Jesus called John receives a series of prophetic visions. One of these visions is of a "marriage supper of the lamb" (Rev. 19:6-10). The lamb is a symbol of Jesus Christ, since his death on the cross (crucifixion) was like the death of a sacrificial lamb in the Jewish tradition: The Torah explains that certain animals should be killed and offered to God to pay for specific sins; so Christians understand that Jesus' death paid the price for their sins. However, Christians are expecting Jesus to return.



When Christ returns, he will come as a bridegroom looking for a bride. Jesus often spoke about how the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven was like a wedding feast (Matt. 22:1-14, Matt. 25:1-13). We can consider that True Father came as the Lamb, the returning Christ and bridegroom, and True Mother was his bride clothed "in the righteous deeds of the saints" (Rev. 19:8). Thus their wedding represented the fulfilment of this revelation.

Who was originally supposed to be the True Parents?

Originally, the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were supposed to be fruitful (become mature individuals) and then multiply (get married and have children). If they had not fallen, they would have become the True Parents of all humanity.

Since the Human Fall, our Heavenly Parent has been looking for an original son and original daughter who could become True Parents and give rebirth to humanity. When Jesus appeared 2,000 years ago, God hoped that he would find a bride and together they would become the True Parents. Since Jesus died before this was possible, Jesus had been in the position of the spiritual True Father, along with the Holy Spirit occupying the position of spiritual True Mother; as the spiritual True Parents, all Christians who believe in them can be adopted into the family of God.

Only with the victory of Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han is our Heavenly Parent finally able to find the eternal True Parents. That is why we celebrate True Parents' Day.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

- For those who are married: what do you remember about your engagement?
- How do you consider True Father as a role model of masculinity and True Mother as a role model of femininity?
 - Which qualities in them do you admire?
- What does it mean *to you* to be True Parents?
 - Draw a picture or write a poem of what True Parents means to you
- What can you do today to make this day special?

Here are some ideas:

- Write a letter to True Mother wishing her a Happy True Parents' Day
- Children: make a "thank you" card, draw a picture or write a letter to your own parents; what do you love and appreciate about them?
- Parents: write a letter about what you appreciate and have learnt through becoming a parent
- Offer a prayer service in the morning, reciting the Family Pledge
- Prepare a celebratory meal along with making or buying a cake