

## The Evil Thorn, and Its Removal

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August 25, 2017



Parent-child love and true conjugal love are the strongest forces in the universe. True conjugal love can never be broken; the word divorce is not in God's dictionary.

True conjugal love endures even though the body grows old.

My friend, a colleague of the Dalai Lama, who had been a Buddhist monk for 50 years, was matched and blessed by True Parents at age 70. He cried out to me a few months later, when his wife in her 60s had been gone a few days, "I miss my wife! I can't live without her!"

As the psalmist says, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree. They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green."

True conjugal love grows eternally in the spirit world. Therefore, the kingdom of God is eternal.

If our conjugal love falls short, then it is not yet true. It means that we have not yet welcomed God's presence. We have not fulfilled the conditions for the living and breathing God to be with us in marriage.

There is a God-shaped hole in my heart, that only my wife, Hyeyong, can fill. And a God-shaped hole in her heart that only I can fill.

St. Augustine said, "Our heart is restless until it rests in you." It rests in God when it rests in your spouse's arms.

If that spouse is not there, we will be unsatisfied and unhappy. Vulnerable to temptation, we will constantly struggle with sexual desire. Far from being a blessing, sexual desire will become a curse, what St. Paul called "a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."

This leads indeed to torment, to a world of frustration, spousal abuse, infidelity and divorce. All manners of sexual perversions arise as people seek to fulfill their longing for true conjugal love through adultery, prostitution, pornography, rape and incest.

Jesus does not remove that thorn. True Parents do.

It's not by magic. There's no pill by which we achieve what Father Moon called "a husband and wife love that gives primacy to heaven and earth and to the cosmos."

So how does it happen? Why cannot Jesus and the Holy Spirit remove the thorn? How do True Parents do it?

This is something the Dalai Lama needs to understand. The Pope too.

*(Citations: Ps. 92:14; St. Augustine, Confessions; 2 Cor 12:7; "Understanding Life and Death," December 18, 1998.)*