



Discussion: What shall we teach?

Below are some notes from the recent pastors' meeting (October 2–4), where we had the opportunity to share openly our thoughts on what pastors should be teaching. All pastors and community leaders contributed their thoughts. We experienced a great sense of connection as we shared and felt that our contributions complemented each other. The points below provide a brief summary of a more extensive discussion.

FOCUS ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- A strong consensus emerged around the need for **spiritual growth** as the foundation of all teaching, emphasising the principle of give and take and the journey of growth in the context of the Cheon Il Guk era.
- The purpose of teaching the Divine Principle is to promote spiritual growth and help people establish a relationship with Heavenly Parent. The purpose of CBMR is to deepen our relationship with True Parents.

RELATIONSHIP WITH TRUE PARENTS OVER THEORIES & THEOLOGIES

- True Mother emphasises telling people about True Parents; she does not emphasise theological speculation. Focus on True Mother's word and share it with members.
- True Father and True Mother's **unique life course** was highlighted as more accessible and heartistic than doctrinal teachings. Her growth journey offers a relatable model for our own spiritual development.
- Preparing the environment to welcome the True Family was considered crucial, especially for the next generation, who would carry the movement forward.
- We should teach what only we (FFWPU) can teach—centred on the living presence of True Parents, who will not return again.

Pastors are called to cultivate an environment where members and blessed families can form living, personal relationships with True Parents—relationships that are sincere, unique, and grounded in the Divine Principle.

This requires careful guidance to avoid two potential extremes:



FAMILY FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION (UK)

43 Lancaster Gate • London W2 3NA • United Kingdom

familyfedcommunity.org.uk • ffwpu.org.uk • hq@ffwpu.org.uk

1. **Deification** – Elevating True Parents to a divine status that contradicts the Divine Principle and distances us from the ideal of creation, as an achievable goal.
2. **Profanation** – Reducing True Parents (True Father, True Mother or both) to role models or other teachings that undermine their victorious life course as the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.

Both the words and the life of True Parents need to be considered as pastors guide their communities and individual members. Deepening and strengthening members' personal relationships with True Parents can have a great impact on their spiritual growth and is a core responsibility of our pastors.

STORIES & PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

- Emphasis on stories rather than theories to nourish people spiritually. William's example of Bible stories rather than theology—stories have a unique capacity to touch hearts. There was a call for greater depth in teaching, with the reminder that teachers must know more than they say or is on the slides.
- Practical guidance was emphasised: Sunday services should inspire action and help members grow closer to God.
- True Mother's **direct involvement in the Korean Epic** was seen as a signal that it is now Korea's time to rise. Understanding her heart behind these efforts is crucial.
- The pastors stressed that **what we show is more important than what we teach**—living example individuals and families, open homes, and testimonies are the real educators.
- We must aim to embody the culture of CIG and pass it on, even though we are not there yet. Good examples provide clarity for young people to **live the Principle**.

In conclusion, the pastors agreed on developing a teaching approach that is **heart-centred, practical, and relational**, with a strong emphasis on stories, testimony, True Parents and other living examples of the Divine Principle.