

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Michael Balcomb - 2025 Dedication of Sanctum to Feel Holiness of God

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Dr. Michael Balcomb giving his sermon in North London 15th September 2024

Sanctum to feel holiness of God to be officially dedicated April 2025 in South Korea

Part 1 of extracts from a sermon titled "In Our Parent's House", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), gave at the Sunday service in North London on 15th September 2024. Slightly edited.



From [Father Moon's](#) gravesite in Gapyeong, South Korea

We spent a lot of time overseas this summer, first in the United States, and then we went to Korea to celebrate [True Father's](#) Seonghwa anniversary. And this year was a particularly meaningful celebration for me because we conducted the pledge service and the prayer service right there at [True Father's](#) gravesite. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and I really felt the peace of that place and [True Father's](#) presence.

But going to Korea is really quite tough. It's far away, especially when you've flown right around the world from America. So we decided afterwards, "Let's take a few days and go to Japan and just unwind. We had a beautiful time on the island of Shikoku. Apart from the fact that a typhoon was bearing down on us, and we had to keep moving, it was great.

It was on the way back, while we were changing plane in Shanghai, that I got the message to come back to Korea. [...]

We turned around in 20 hours, and went back to Korea. "Why?" you may ask. Well, that's what I want to share with you this morning.



Mother Moon at international leaders' meeting in Gapyeong, South Korea 6th September 2024

I was called by [True Mother](#) in person, "Come back to Korea! I want your opinion. I want your insight." Not from me personally, perhaps, but the insight of someone from the UK or Europe, on the Cheonwon Gung, the peace palace that [True Mother](#) has been building these past few years in Korea and help her make a plan so that when we finally dedicate it and enter it next April, it will be a ceremony that the whole world can enjoy.

So she asked me, "So, what do you think? Is this better than the palaces of Europe?"

You have to think quick in a moment like that. The first answer is, "Yes." But why is it better?

And suddenly it occurred to me, no, I've been to many palaces and castles in Europe and I'm sure that all of us have. But one thing I've noticed is that on the whole, they have a

shadowed history, right? They've been used for purposes that are not particularly holy. And in some of them, you can still feel an atmosphere of fear, because the castle, the palace, represented the rule of force.

But here at Cheonwon Gung, I felt something very different. And I told [Mother](#),

"I feel a different spirit here. This place has been created as a home for [God](#) and his family, or her family. It's just a place of love."

And [Mother](#) said,

"Yes, you're absolutely right. And moreover, once it has been fully dedicated and offered to [God](#), it's yours. It's not mine; it's yours. And you, my children, are the ones who have to make it work and help the building to represent the vision behind it, which is a world of peace and justice."



Dr. Michael Balcomb at international leaders' meeting in Gapyeong, South Korea 20th August 2024

So I'd like to say that I was completely united with this and sort of floated down the stairs and thought, "Wow, wonderful! At last, the house of [God](#) is ready."

But I didn't, because, honestly speaking, I've been brought up or have thought,

"Well, [God](#) doesn't really need a house, does he? I mean the whole of heaven and earth is the house of [God](#). The whole creation is the house of [God](#). Buildings are not that important."

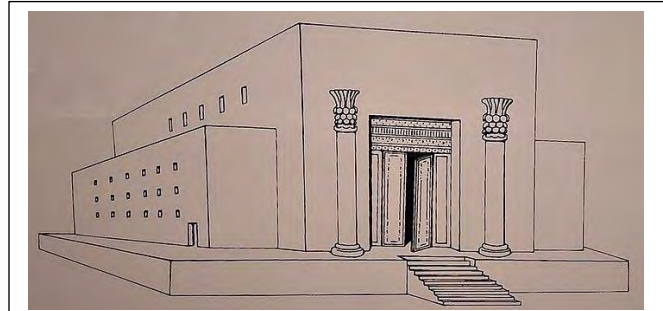
But then I thought to myself,

"Yeah, but would you really feel that way if you felt that [God](#) is your Father, your Mother?"

My mom is 94 years old, and about a year ago she had a stroke and for a while she had to be in hospital and then in a rehabilitation centre. But finally the day came when she could come back to her own house.

However, she couldn't manage to live by herself as she did before. And so each one weekend a month, me and my three sisters, more or less got up there to help her. At the other time, she has carers, but for her, it's so important to be in her own home and not in an institution where maybe physically everything

would be more comfortable, but spiritually and mentally it would be so sad.



A modern artistic depiction of the First Temple in Jerusalem, also known as Solomon's Temple

Maybe it's stretching the point. But I began to think along these lines,

"What about our Heavenly Parent who's longing to be with his, with her children all the time?"

But at the moment, could it be that the churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples of the world are a little bit like institutions, like putting [God](#) into an institution? It's comfortable; people come to worship, but

actually it's not the same as being home with your own family. Maybe something to think about there?

The first reading we had [...], comes from the time when King Solomon dedicated the temple in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago:

"But will [God](#) really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my [God](#). Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.

Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive." (1 Kings 8:23-27)

And if you look into it a bit deeper, you'll see that it was a long project. It took seven to ten years, with enormous expenditure, and forced labour as well.

So finally it was done. And you could imagine it would have been possible for Solomon to feel,

"I've done it, I'm great. I've built the temple of [God](#) that my father promised to."



Cheonwon Gung starting to take shape. Here, in August 2024

But it's clear from the scriptures that even at that moment, he was really thinking,

"Will, in fact, [God](#) live in this temple?"

And it says, "You who are bigger than all of heaven and earth."

But the interesting point is what [God](#) says in reply, [...]

"Yes, I will be in this temple, and I will hear your prayers. And not just your prayers. I'll hear the prayers of anyone who turns their face towards this temple, including and especially the foreigner, the people who are not even from the people of Israel. So, yes, you can count on it."

But there's a condition:

"If you keep my statutes, if you keep my law, if you keep close to me, I will definitely hear your prayers, and I'll answer them. If you forget and you start to drift away, then I will leave this place and it will become just a pile of rubble. And people who pass by will be appalled."

That's the word in the Bible: "appalled". They were thinking,

"What happened here? How could it be that this great temple, dedicated at such expense and with such a heart, now lies ruined?"

And of course, that's actually what happened. Before too long, the people did lose sight of the promises they'd made. The nation was divided, the temple was destroyed, and [God](#) didn't have a home anymore.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

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God and Human Beings

God and human beings – the most important of all relationships

The parent-child relationship between [God](#) and human beings is the very axis of the universe, the most important of all relationships. It was this relationship that [God](#) created everything for.

According to [Father](#) and [Mother Moon's](#) teachings, [God](#) created us humans because of love. We are different from the rest of creation because we were created to be sons and daughters of [God](#), and were meant to receive [God's](#) love directly. This is the privilege of human beings. We are beings who are meant to respond to [God's](#) love.

[Father Moon](#) explains the incredibly close relationship that should have existed from the beginning between [God](#) and us,

"Why did [God](#) need Adam and Eve? He had two purposes: first, to realize the ideal of love, and second, for the invisible [God](#) to make Himself visible after taking on a form. For this reason, [Adam and Eve](#) are the base and core through which the invisible [God](#) can assume a visible form and establish a relationship with the visible world." (From a speech [Sun Myung Moon](#) gave 1st April 1977. Quoted from the English version of the speech collection [Cheon Seong Gyeong](#), 2006-version, p. 95)

"What good would it be for the incorporeal [God](#) to remain apart from His creation? For [God](#) to remain invisible is of no use to Him. To be the Parent of human beings, [God](#) should be able to feel with a body as human beings do. For the purpose of assuming a body, it was necessary for [God](#) to create [Adam and Eve](#) as beings of dual structure, of mind and body." (From a speech [Sun Myung Moon](#) gave 10th July 1984. Quoted from the English version of the speech collection [Cheon Seong Gyeong](#), 2014-version, p. 85)

"Why did [God](#) create [Adam and Eve](#)? [God](#) is an incorporeal being, so unless He becomes the Parent in substantial form, He cannot directly love His children. Hence, He created them so He could have a form. Thus, the incorporeal [God's](#) purpose in creating [Adam and Eve](#) was, first, to assume a form." (From a speech [Sun Myung Moon](#) gave 6th July 1992. Quoted from the English version of the speech collection [Cheon Seong Gyeong](#), 2014-version, p. 89)



Sun Myung Moon, 1972.

We can perhaps best understand the relationship that originally should have existed between [God](#) and human beings, by looking at the relationship between [God](#) and Jesus. Jesus became what Adam should have become, an individual who was a living expression of the spirit of [God](#). For that reason, Christian believers claim that Jesus was an incarnation of [God](#), that [God](#) became human in a sense.



The [Unification Principles](#) emphasize that [God](#) is a fatherly and motherly being, with masculine and feminine aspects. And when [God](#) created human beings in his image, He created them as man and woman. Originally, [God](#) should have become human through [Adam and Eve](#) in the Garden of Eden.

Adam would become a living expression of [God's](#) masculine characteristics, Eve of [God's](#) feminine nature. For [God](#) to become completely one with human beings, there has to be a man and a woman. Thus, it follows that Jesus should have married, just like [Adam and Eve](#) should have been blessed in marriage by [God](#), once they had grown

up and matured sufficiently to become one with [God](#) in heart.

Unfortunately, Jesus was killed before he fully could show the path we are all meant to walk here on earth to become one with [God](#). Therefore, the Messiah must return. When that happens, [God](#) and we may finally become one both here on earth and in the hereafter. As prophesied in the Bible,

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! [God's](#) dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and [God](#) himself will be with them and be their [God](#).'" (Rev 21:3, *New International Version*)

"God and human beings" – text Knut Holdhus

[More about God](#)

See also "[My Gift to God](#)"



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