

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Michael Balcomb on God and You - With Whom I Am Well Pleased

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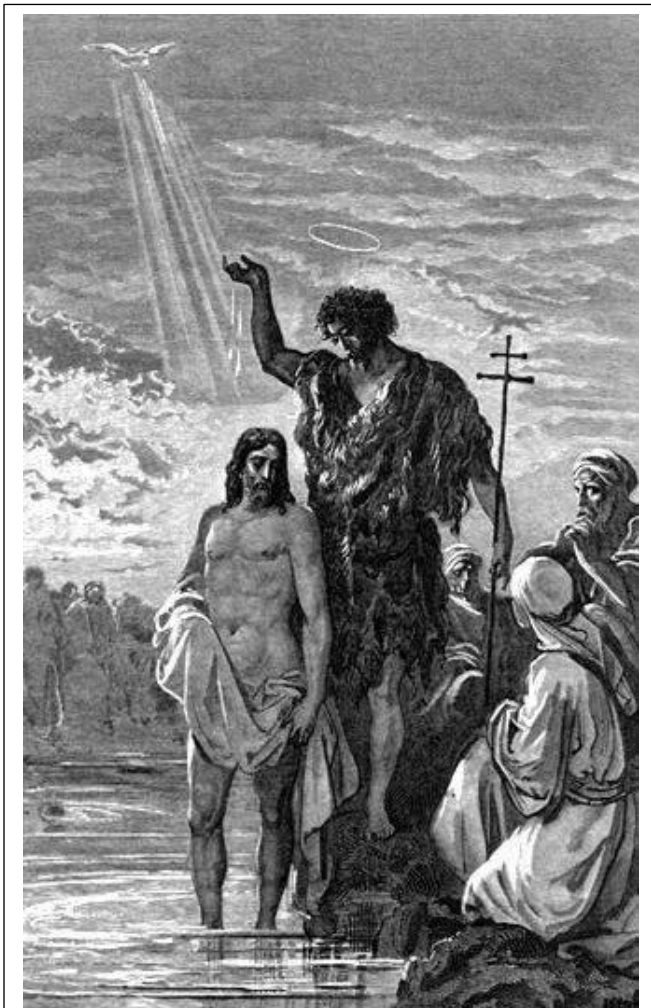
Featured image above: Dr. Michael Balcomb in Copenhagen, November 10, 2024

Dr. Michael Balcomb's Copenhagen message on God and you: "We are God's sons and daughters with whom God is well pleased."

Part 1 of extracts from a sermon titled "With Whom I Am Well Pleased", 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 Copenhagen, Denmark on 10th November 2024. Slightly edited.

"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!'" (Matthew 17:5)

We don't think of ourselves like that very often. Right?



John the Baptist baptizes Jesus. Author: Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

[God](#) first says this to Jesus, when Jesus is being baptized, the interesting thing is at that moment, as far as the Bible is concerned, Jesus hasn't done anything. He hasn't given any sermons; he hasn't done any miracles. He hasn't turned water into wine. He hasn't fed the 5,000. He hasn't gone to the temple. He hasn't become a sacrifice. He hasn't done any of that.

It's right at the very beginning. And [God](#) is giving him this blessing,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

So what does Jesus say in response? What would you say in response? I know what I'd say. I'd say something like this,

"Oh, [God](#), I'll do my best. I'll try to be the son in whom you can be well pleased. I'll work hard and try to live up to that great expectation."

But Jesus doesn't say that. He doesn't say anything, actually. He just receives it, just lets it come upon him. Because [God](#) is well pleased. Not because of what we do, not because of what we think, not even because of what we say, but simply because of who we are.

We are [God's](#) sons and [God's](#) daughters with whom [God](#) is well pleased. No conditions, no qualifications other than that. Not because you've been a faithful member of the church for. Not because you are a missionary working in another country. Not because you were kind to your wife this morning and made her happy. Not because of any of those things.

It's so hard for us to understand the heart of [God](#), that [God](#) loves us just because of who we are. [True Father](#) used to call it the law of resemblance. Do you remember him talking about that?

We all like to see ourselves, and we like to see ourselves reflected in others. If you look at an old

photograph, at least if you're like me, you want to see, "Where am I? There I am. And then, who else can I see?"

If you look at your children or your grandchildren, you like to see them because they resemble you.

I remember when [Mother](#) came to Munich. Did any of you go to Munich for the Bloom festival?



[Mother Moon](#) on stage during the Bloom Festival, in Showpalast, Munich, Germany 19th May 2024

If you look at your children or your grandchildren, you like to see them because they resemble you.

I remember when [Mother](#) came to Munich. Did any of you go to Munich for the Bloom festival?

The day before the festival, [Mother](#) gave me a very hard time. She did not say, "You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."



*Michael and Fumiko Balcomb in Malmö, Sweden
10th Nov. 2024*

She said,

"You haven't really done well, have you, in Europe? Because we've had a mission here for 50 years, and you're telling me we are not that many members. [...] There are many countries where even to count to 100 members is difficult."

She really emphasized this point. But then, just when we were all wondering, how we could get out of the room, one of [Mother's](#) assistants, Wonju McDevitt, brought [Mother](#) her phone. And on the phone was a video from her great granddaughter, Jeon-ju. And [Mother](#) started watching this video. And then she just started giggling like a little girl. She said, "Oh, that's so cute!" And she watched it three or four times. Then she made us all watch it as well.

So those of you who are grandparents or parents, you'll know that when other people show you their grandchildren, it's not the same. Not the same as seeing your own grandchildren or your own children.

[Mother](#) was almost uncontrollably happy just to see her great granddaughter. I've never seen her like that. She was just so happy and

laughing.

I thought afterwards,

"God is really trying to tell me something here: How happy [God](#) is with each of us."

But we don't know it. We feel awkward because there's a part of us that starts to think,

"Well, wait a minute, [God](#), you can't really mean that, can you? Because look at me. I have doubts, I'm lazy, I make mistakes, I say things that I shouldn't say. I sometimes upset people, or I forget them."

I'm just thinking of all the things right now; Fumiko [his wife] will be able to add more.

We think,

"You can't love someone like me. I don't measure up to your standards."

But the point is, that doesn't matter to [God](#) at all. And if we hear that voice, it's really somebody else. Somebody else telling us,

"You're not worthy. Of course, you're not worthy because you don't do this, you don't do that."

But that's not true. [Father](#) gives us a good idea of this in his autobiography.

He says,

"So why did [God](#) call me? Even now, at ninety years of age, I wonder every day why [God](#) called me. Of all the people in the world, why did He choose me? It wasn't because I had a particularly good appearance, or outstanding character, or deep conviction. I was just an unremarkable, stubborn, and foolish young boy. If [God](#) saw something in me, it must have been a sincere heart that sought Him with tears of love." (As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, p54)



[Sun Myung Moon](#) in prayer on Wednesday 17th April 1935, when [Jesus appeared](#) to him. Painting by Shigeyoshi Watanabe from 1982

When we start to read it carefully and listen to what [Father's](#) saying - and [Mother](#) too; will come to that - [Father](#) is very transparent in As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen.

We all know that when [Father](#) first received the commission from Jesus, he felt,

"No, I can't do it. I'm not worthy. Find somebody else."

But gently - as far as we know - Jesus pursued him,

"No, no, you are that person! Of course, right now, at 15 years old, you are not the person you will become. But I will help you. I will raise you, I will teach you, and you will become the person able to do it."

But as we heard from the above reading, even at the age of 90, [Father](#) was still wondering, "Really?"

So even [Father](#) himself could feel this constant amazement, wonder, "How could [God](#) choose me?"

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

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Essence of God

It is the essence of God that longs for a deep relationship to us

According to the Abrahamic religions, [God](#) is a personal [God](#). This means that we humans may have a personal relationship with him. What is it about [God](#) that allows such a relationship? [Father Moon](#) elaborates that it is not [God](#)'s outer being, his energy and power. On the contrary, it is the inner qualities of [God](#), his heart, the very essence of [God](#), his innermost being. In his heart, [God](#) longs for a deep relationship with us.

According to [Sun Myung Moon](#), it is the creation that gives us the best understanding of [God](#). You may understand an artist's mind by studying his works of art. In the same way, we understand something about [God](#) by studying his creation.



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God	Inner nature	Outer being
Human beings	Mind	Body
Animals	Animal mind	Body
Plants	Plant mind	Body
Molecules	Inherent directive nature	Matter
Atoms	Inherent directive nature	Matter
Particles	Inherent directive nature	Matter

Everything in creation has an inner nature and an outer being. It is not only we humans who have an inner nature, a mind. Animals have it too, a mind characterized by instincts. In plants, we observe a plant mind, which regulates the external form and functions of the plant. Even in inorganic matter, the inner nature is expressed as inherent properties, that govern the material structure.

As the dual characteristics of inner nature / outer form are a universal feature of creation, the conclusion is that the being who created all things – [God](#) – must also have such an inner nature and an outer being. The outer aspect of [God](#) is his energy and power, the inner aspect his mind. Important aspects of [God](#)'s mind are his emotion, intellect, and will. We humans are created in [God](#)'s image. Therefore, we too have emotion, intellect and will. But the deepest aspect of [God](#), the innermost, is his

heart. It is from his heart that his love flows.

It is only by understanding the heart of God that we understand the essence of [God](#), his core. It is in his heart we find the reason [God](#) created. He created everything because he wanted someone to express his deepest heart to. The goal of creation was precisely us humans. Everything is created for us and to be managed by us. [God](#) therefore longs for a relationship in his heart with us humans.

This is somewhat similar to how we all love to have someone to express our heart to. Without it, life becomes superficial.

As it was we human beings who were the very goal of [God](#)'s work of creation, by understanding our own situation, we may understand [God](#)'s heart. When [God](#) created the first humans, he was full of expectation and hope. His dream of having someone he could express his love to, and who would respond to him, was going to come true.

However, it did not work out that way. The dream was shattered. The humans left [God](#) and began to behave dead against [God](#)'s expectations. He could not love them, and they could not love him. [God](#) became deeply distressed and frustrated. He became a broken-hearted [God](#), with a heart full of [sorrow](#) and pain.

However, [God](#) did not give up. He had no choice but to begin the painstaking process of restoration, determined to regain what was lost. He had to endure countless setbacks. There were so many he called who failed him. Still [God](#) never abandoned humanity.

After thousands of years, he was finally able to recreate a new Adam – Jesus. Again, [God](#)'s heart was full of hope and great expectation. But although [God](#) had painstakingly prepared a foundation for his son, he was treated most cruelly and hung on a cross.

Therefore, [God](#) had to slowly prepare a new foundation. [God](#)'s hope is that the Messiah at the second coming, the third Adam, will be the one who can finally give [God](#) what he has always longed for – a world where [God](#) can one day live in our midst and express his love to us, at the same time that we show [God](#) our love to him. Such a world is of course not something one human – not even a Messiah – can create. We must all lend a helping hand. Then, we may develop a deep relationship with [God](#) in our heart, when we help to free [God](#)'s heart from its heavy [sorrow](#) and deep frustration.

"Essence of God" – text: Knut Holdhus

[More about God](#)



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