

Blessing is the First Step toward an Ideal Family

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True Parents give the Invocation of the Blessing during the Blessing Ceremony in the Era to Open the Gates to the Victory, Liberation and Completion of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, on 2.2 (March 24, 2012) in the Cheong Shim Peace World Center, Korea

"What is the significance of the blessed families? Satan has no control over the blessed families. When they have complete faith in Father and a strong conviction that they belong to True Parents, no matter where they are, Satan cannot violate that. Why is this so? It is because, centering on the heart of True Parents, they have a relationship with the realm of heart of the converted lineage. That is why Satan cannot touch them."

-- True Father, Cheon Seong Gyeong p. 1273

Educating Parents

For Unificationist parents, our deepest desire and goal in life is to guide our children safely to the blessing and for them to experience happy blessed family life. We long to establish our third generation.

How do we achieve this great goal?

When we look around us, we see many second-generation Unificationists wavering or unaware of the importance of receiving the blessing. Others want to receive the blessing but their parents do not know how to find a suitable match for their child.

We usually focus on educating second-generation members, but from working in the Blessed Family Department, I realize that it is even more important to educate the parents, because educating the children and guiding them to the blessing is the parents' responsibility. Some parents think educating their children is the church's responsibility when in fact the church can only support and supplement the education the parents give their children at home.

True Father emphasized in his Peace Messages that the best way to protect the spiritual lives of our children is by doing Hoon Dok Hae as a family. He said, "No matter how hard Satan may try to worm his way in, to infest your lineage, once he encounters the Hoon Dok Hae tradition, he will find no room to move." This is so true.

To not only read Father's teachings together but also for everyone in the family to share their reflections about what was read is so important. This provides an opportunity for our children to share their hearts as well as any difficulties they encounter throughout the day and receive their parents' advice, which will allow them to feel their parents' love and concern for them. Many of us parents are so busy that we forget to take the time to listen to our children, who might conclude that they are not worth our time.

As our children grow, we have to become their best friends, so that they can open up their hearts to us. Some parents treat their teenage children as if they were little kids, telling them what they think is right

and wrong, without ever stopping to wonder what is on their son's or daughter's mind.

Our children are often scared to tell us what they think and feel honestly, because they love us and they do not want to disappoint us. They hide their internal struggles and even purity-related mistakes, because they know this will hurt us the most. We as parents, then, must make an atmosphere in which our children can feel safe to share even their innermost struggles and know that we will stand by them, help and support them to overcome any difficulty in life. They must be able to feel free to ask any question or express any doubt they have.



Parents and children at a second-generation workshop in Thailand

This is a tall order -- but if our children harbor secrets, unspoken hopes and expectations, all these will eventually come out in the matching process. Why? Because often parents are eager to match a child that is not yet ready or to suggest a potential match that is the opposite of what their child hopes for or expects. Other parents might push a child to go to the Cheon Il Guk Matching, when the child is unprepared but wouldn't dare admit it to the parents.

When children face a future spouse they cannot imagine spending the rest of their lives with, they are in a great dilemma and eventually have to open up their hearts and reveal their honest feelings. The earlier they do so, the better. I have witnessed couples where one partner kept avoiding the spouse for months or years without ever revealing their honest feelings until he or she could not endure any longer and broke the

blessing. The longer they wait, the deeper the hurt of their partner and the two families involved.

No matter how sad and disappointed we might feel as parents, we need to respond in mature and loving ways, accepting the inner reality of our child and helping him or her to move forward. In this way, the parent matching process is truly a course of family restoration. All hidden problems and difficulties in our family relationships come out and need to be resolved in order to guide our child to lead a successful blessed family life.

Not only do the children have to grow up but we parents have an opportunity to reflect and realize what issues we need to resolve in order to help our children. Many times, second-generation members hesitate to go to the blessing because they have seen their parents suffer. When couples just endure each other without feeling any joy or love in their marital life, how can their children feel hope for their own blessing?



Couples celebrate at the 2014 Cosmic Blessing Ceremony by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

Working out our husband–wife relationship and building a bond of true love with our spouse is the best blessing education we can give to our children. Our children do not want to hear nice lectures about true

love or listen to beautiful principles; they want to experience them as a practical reality in their daily lives. If we do not practice them at home, we run the risk of our children rejecting the Principle as a mere theory without practical application.

Sometimes parents think that as long as they lead a principled and public life, God will guide their children to the blessing automatically. However, we as parents have to fulfill our own portion of responsibility. Therefore, long before our children have grown up and need to prepare for the blessing, we need to lay the foundation in their tender hearts by practicing a happy blessed family life centered on True Parents' teachings and love.



The Blessing is the Start of a New Journey

True Parents started the tradition of the blessing, signifying that God gives us something special when we enter a blessed marriage. As we approach this important time in our lives, it is therefore worth reminding ourselves of the real blessings we can receive from this. The blessing is not just a ceremony; it is a lifestyle that True Parents have established in the blessed families.

How well we prepare for it and how much space we give to God and True Parents to guide us through the matching and in blessed life matters very much. Our potential fully develops there, and God can help us to fulfil his promise of love by supporting each one of us to reach the ideal, depending on the state of our heart, and of our prayerful mind and conscience.

Indeed, True Father said, in guidance to second-generation members in the Cheon-Il-Guk matching, "If you follow your original mind, God will make it work."

True Parents always emphasized the value of the purity of love; the central concept, "absolute sex," clearly indicates purity before marriage and fidelity within. Through a pure heart, we can connect to our partner and create the most amazing love. True love is not just an emotion, and the blessing is not about falling in love, but growing in love. The purity of our love will bring us nearer to God and to more closely resemble our Heavenly Parent. The purity of our heart and beauty of our marriage has the potential to move even God's heart.

God's hope is that we become madly in love with our husband or wife and that our hearts melt into one. Upon this unity of husband and wife, we can resemble the image of God. Therefore, for God and True Parents, how we start our first love, and how much we have been able to protect our love and heart for our spouse makes a big difference.

Father's view of purity is clearly not an out-of-reach, theoretical and religious concept. Through introducing the Cheon Il Guk standard of purity as the standard we should aim for, he gradually increased expectations of what "purity" means. At the same time, Father supported those that made mistakes, offering forgiveness and guiding us to restore our past. He wanted us all to stand in front of God again with dignity as his loving children who understand his heart. The standard is there to define the path and to teach us about the achievable ideal of the original path of love. Still, we should remember not to judge each other for mistakes made or those who are victims of difficult circumstances or lack of love and

understanding, but to support each other on the path of goodness back to God.

The Cheon Il Guk standard of purity should make us acutely aware of the preciousness of sexual love. Indeed, our seriousness in this sacred area is an expression of our love for God, and our love for others. Because of love we want to have a pure heart when meeting other brothers and sisters. Because of love we do not want to flirt; we do not want to see how it feels to date or be in an exclusive relationship. Because of love we do not try to justify careless thoughts, words and actions. Because of love we do not want to compromise the standard.

The choice is ours, and God is always there to support us when we want to make a change. The Principle and Father's teachings are there to guide us forward: "God's lineage provides the context and environment for a true life." (Peace Message 10) The historical course of the first generation in establishing the change of bloodline afforded their children the opportunity to start a new tradition and culture. The course of a blessed child is to further develop this pure heart and devotion to God and continue God's lineage through the blessing with another blessed child—following the course of absolute sexual purity. Thus, starting with the marriage relationship, we build toward an ideal family and attempt to bring God's virtues to others beyond our family—in our career, our friendships, and our community and public life.

Father and Mother have been continuously working to further develop God's lineage and offer God the fulfilment of his ideal here on earth. Anyone who ever heard Father talk to blessed children on the value of purity and lineage knows that he has been uncompromising there. The real value of a blessed child is not in their accomplishments, but the lineage they carry and the potential that this holds for the future generations.

True Parents have been offering the Cheon Il Guk couples to God, as a textbook for all of mankind and eternity. It was the closest they had to offer God the fulfilment of His ideal: blessed children born without original sin that kept their purity despite growing up in this fallen world and received their partner through absolute faith in God and True Parents.

Through the second-generation blessed couples, the foundation of the three Great Kingships can be established and the legacy of their parents and True Parents can be passed on.

Indeed, a characteristic of valuable things is that they may need more effort to attain. Efforts to keep the vision and hope when times are dark, investing again and again, letting God work, keeping faith and trust, and overcoming fears are some of the qualities needed to receive the blessing.

May all new couples preparing themselves to attend the upcoming Blessing Ceremony, make God's ideal a reality in their couple and in their family!