

The Responsibilities of Being Human

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In the course of daily conversation we often hear statements such as these: "She spoke so beautifully. She really put her heart into all that she said. She's so wonderful, so human."

"Well, we didn't accomplish our goal this time. There were so many obstacles and difficulties to overcome; and after all, we're only human.

He's such a marvelous person, so thoughtful and wise. He's such a wonderful human being.

These three statements all talk about being hum-in. But what does it mean to be human or to be a human being? In the American College Dictionary it says: "syn 1. Human or humane may refer to that which is or should be characteristic of human beings. In this describing characteristics, human may refer to good and bad traits of mankind alike -- human kindness and human weakness -- with perhaps more emphasis upon the latter, Human is seen in contrast to divine: 'to err is human, to forgive divine; 'he was only human!'"

So, we see that to be human is to be made up of both good and bad qualities. But is that how it is supposed to be? The term human is supposed to be a symbol of love, truth, strength, and creativity.

Instead, it is often a symbol of hatred, lies, weakness, and destruction. It was supposed to be an honor to be human. But to be human is often looked on with scorn and disgust. Many people consider it a disgrace to be human. The thing is, we have never grown to maturity. We are still children. We are not truly human.

In today's world people are famous for their 'don't give a darn' attitude. We are all wrapped up in our own little world of problems and weakness. (Who cares about anyone else? I have my own problems to take care of.) Yet, we all have the desire to be great and to do great things. We all desire peace and brotherhood.

But, no one wants to reach out and take that first step. (Well, I think I'll let the other guy try it first.) Throughout history, we have been weak, immature children.

Today God is calling us to grow and become mature adults. To do this we have to confront our weaknesses and strengthen our good points. God wants us to be confident and aggressive. He wants each individual to take, not just the first step, but a gigantic leap. To do this we all have to take on

responsibility, working first in small things and then working toward larger things. For instance, when there is a job to be done, do you take responsibility and do your part in it, or do you sit on the sidelines and wait for someone else to do it? Do you wait to be asked to do something, or do you go ahead and do it anyway, even if no one else is around and even if the job is not your assigned responsibility? Are you the type of person who sees a job to do and takes full responsibility to do it? You will probably find it much easier to grow and mature if you do. Because you mature as fast as you take on responsibility.

As members of the Unification Church we must set the example for the rest of the world. We have to act as a parent to our nation, and raise it up to the level of responsible adulthood, where it should be. To raise the nation we must love it as a father, and serve it and set the example of how it should serve the world. If we do this we will become truly human. For that's what being human really is: to be truly loving and also sacrificial. To love this nation as a parent, it is necessary to sacrifice for it. Even sacrificing our lives if necessary. For to give your life for someone is to show him your greatest love.

Our mission is big and we have to grow into it. This is going to take a lot of fast and hard growing. To help us grow, God sometimes asks us to do what we cannot yet do. He asks us to reach for an impossible goal. Thus we have to stretch ourselves beyond the limits that we have placed on ourselves. We have to stretch ourselves to the fullest extent. But like a child we cannot run and jump without learning to walk first. We will stumble and fall many times. But like that child we should pick ourselves up again and again, stretching ourselves toward that goal again. Then that impossible goal will come into our reach, or rather we grow tall enough to reach it.

Let's say that you were asked to go out every day for a week and preach downtown. Let's say that you were asked to bring in ten new members from this. Well... let's be a little more reasonable and say two new members, and have the signed membership forms by next Sunday night. Could you do it? Could you alone preach during the day and get people interested in coming to the center in the evening? Could you teach them the Principle and show them how important it can be in their lives? Some of you, if you really put your minds to it, might be able to do it. The rest, myself included, would have to really work hard at public speaking and teaching, and probably would have a few failures before we could make that leap successfully.

Now, once we are inspired to make the big leap, a little voice inside us begins saying, "Wait a minute... Are you sure you want to do this now? You've never done anything like this before, you know. It's a big leap and a long fall if you fail. Maybe you'd better not try this now. You've not a very good teacher anyway."

This voice has many names. Among them are doubt, faithlessness, fear, and lack of confidence. These are all aliases for Satan. Satan enters in and tries to create hardships for us and tries to do everything he can to stop us. We are at war with Satan and should use the weapons of truth, love, and unity that we have at our disposal.

And this period we can expect some of Satan's strongest attacks. How are we going to meet them? We might be somewhat fearful of how Satan will attack us, and we might let our fear pull us down spiritually. But we should be strong, and confident, and unified, and high in spirits. One big problem that many of us have: is that we worry about how Satan will attack next or how we will be paying indemnity tomorrow. If you happen to be a worrier, like me, just think of the worst problems that you could be presented with. Now, look a little deeper into these problems and start figuring out how you can overcome them. Usually you will find that there are many ways that these problems can be overcome, and that usually worry is unnecessary. Also, Satan loves to make unhappy. He loves to make people feel really terrible. But usually, no matter how bad a situation is, there is usually something interesting and enjoyable in it. Look for these things. They may be hidden but they are there. Enjoy life. It will drive Satan crazy.

Yes, there are many obstacles ahead and many problems to overcome. Satan will always be there saying, "Who do you think you are? Why, you're just a nobody. What power do you have?" But take pride in what you are, instead of only seeing your weakness.

It's Satan's favorite tactic to say, "Why, you're just a nobody." So be a nobody who has the potential to really become a somebody_ Think of what you are able to and then do it. Then CHHAAAARRRGCE! for Pete's sake. We were meant to be the sons and daughters of God. Have faith in God and what He has given you.

Have faith in your abilities. We were meant to be Lords over all creation. We were meant to be co-creators with God!

Now, it's easy to be a pessimist and see why something is impossible to do. It's hard to be an optimist. It's hard to put: yourself right in the middle of a situation and figure out how the problems can be overcome. Yet that's exactly what we must do, and by doing so we will grow.

One day on the way home from work, Pam Lee told me a few ways that I could grow. As much as I wanted to, I couldn't deny the truth in what she said. We often see ways that other people can improve: but we don't often see that we can improve in the same way. We think that improvement is always for the other guy, not for us. But, sometimes listen to what you say about someone else. God could be trying to speak through you to tell you something about yourself.

So what does it mean to be human? The Divine Principle says if man had not fallen but had become one with God by establishing the four positions with Jim, man would have been like a mirror to reflect God's perfect image and likeness. But by turning away from God, man shattered this mirror and could no longer reflect God's perfect image nor perceive His Love. Looking at fallen man, God sees His wounded and broken creation, still bearing the divine spark, the seed of perfection, but unable to respond to Him fully." We have to charge up this divine spark within ourselves.

We have the ability to become perfect. But we have to grow into it.

What does it mean to be human? Being truly human is being mature, responsible, and adult. It is being a co-creator with God.

Being human is being confident in your abilities and outgoing in your nature. It is being sacrificial with a parent's heart. To be human is to loving, truthful, strong, and creative.

When you have the urge to blame your weaknesses on "just being human," look at it this way: being human is a responsibility, not an excuse!