

Interview of Unification Theological Seminary's Dr. Constantine Tsirpanlis

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Dr. Constantine Tsirpanlis, associate professor of church history, holds his doctorate from Fordham University. He is also editor of "Hellenism in America."

I am impressed by the efforts of the Unification Church to unify all cultures and ethnic groups and to promote the plan of God for an ecumenical society, a plan in which the Unification Church plays a leading role. It's an extremely difficult task, like performing the 13th labor of Hercules. Rev. Moon is like the classical Greek super-human hero Hercules who tries to re-create and complete the task of God on earth.

In such a society as ours, any man who stands up courageously enough deserves this title since our society is thoroughly corrupted and all church leaders are in a mess of confusion.

What else impressed me here was the emphasis on personal example of moral improvement and brotherly love. That's why I am convinced that Moon's movement will be successful and triumphant at last. What we need today is not more doctrines or more theories or more speculative theologies but living examples of selfless love and sacrifice for the new world as seen by God Himself. If everyone made a little sacrifice, this marvelous plan of unification of all peoples and cultures would take place immediately. But this requires not just the sacrifices of our leaders, not just collective sacrifice, but individual sacrifice. What we must do is convince people from the lowest to the highest levels, not from the top down. Society is a collection of individuals. If we don't re-create better individuals we will not form a better society. The Divine Principle emphasizes social and individual rebirth in the genuine spirit of early Christianity.

From this point of view, the Unification movement is going back to the early purity of the Christian civilization. It is not just Christian or Roman or Greek but an inclusive movement, super-denominational, even a super-religious movement.