

The Value and General Meaning of Our Unification Church Blessing

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To Engaged Couples in the New York Area



True Parents and Hyun Jin Moon - May 23, 1980

This evening I want to explain the value and general meaning of our Unification Church blessing. I would also like to mention to you one aspect of blessed couples' lifestyle or what it means to live our daily lives as blessed couples. I really wanted to explain these things before the matching. I gave two or three sermons to New York members at Belvedere several years ago that explained the fundamental meaning of blessing, but this evening I can add something more because you are already matched.

In the Bible, the word "blessing" is mentioned in the first chapter of Genesis. In the story of Adam and Eve, there are actually three kinds of blessings mentioned. Yet before 1960, there was no new meaning of the word "blessing" in our church. Father continued to educate us, emphasizing the necessity for brothers and sisters to live completely separately and lead sacrificial lives. Not only did single members live separately, but married couples who had joined our church together did the same. In my own case, when I decided to work for the Church, I felt something like a Catholic father who has determined to give his life to the Church and never marry. At that time, we were all focused on the deep meaning of the Fall of Man. There were only a few members then, and we felt that we would endure any circumstances, even to the point of death, if it were God's will. We would simply work hard and try to be true pioneers. This was in itself enough to make us very excited and happy.

Suddenly after 1960, God's meaning of the word "blessing" was revealed to us. Now even the new members of our church know what the word "blessing" means. But I really feel that all of you need more education about the internal meaning and significance of our blessing.

In God's original ideal, Adam and Eve should have gone through the three stages of growth, reached perfection and then received God's blessing. Before they could reach perfection, there could never have been a blessing. Although it was God's original ideal that they receive His marriage blessing after perfection, Adam and Eve only grew to the top of the second stage before they fell. In understanding the

blessing, it is very important for us to realize that it was not just Adam or not just Eve who fell. Both of them did. They both fell together. Adam and Eve needed only to follow the way of God's original Principle through their growing period. It was after they fell, that their descendants needed to go an alternative way, the way of "restoration."

Why do I differentiate the way of Principle and the way of Restoration? Many of our members have difficulty managing their own life of faith because they don't understand the difference between the way of the original Principle and the way of Restoration. In the beginning Adam's original nature and Eve's original nature, were created to harmonize, but after they fell, each of their characters contained qualities of good and evil. The meaning of a "good" nature is not complete perfection, but something that provides a certain foundation for growth along the path to becoming a child of God. Then what is evil nature? Simply it is the nature of the fallen archangel. Sometimes we say that original sin is the essence of the archangel's nature and because of it, fallen man has to go the way of Restoration. Yet man was never meant to have to go the way of Restoration. It was God's alternative course for man, and 180 degrees different from the way of the Principle.

If we were to follow the way of the original Principle, we would simply work to accomplish our own responsibility. Yet in the course of Restoration, a person's responsibility is not enough. There is no connection between the personal responsibility that God gave us and the removal of our evil nature. It is impossible to remove evil nature by ourselves so we must meet the Messiah and receive the special benefit that only he can give. Our situation is so serious that we must also fulfill certain indemnity conditions. This is the only way that we can pass through the way of restoration.

I have explained that we can receive the blessing after we complete the way of Restoration, but this point can be easily misunderstood. The blessing is not given to us based on any conditions we ourselves do. It is totally the result of God's and the Messiah's grace to fallen man. Externally it looks as if we receive the blessing after a certain time period and after we have finished the way of Restoration by fulfilling certain indemnity conditions. Although this is how it seems, we are given the Blessing only because of the grace of God and the foundation made by the Messiah. The indemnity we pay is only a small condition and not sufficient to pay the debt we owe God. Remember that although an indemnity condition may be a challenge to us and an expression of our determination, the real benefit of indemnity conditions lies in the fact that we are able to receive so much grace from God, even though our condition is not actually adequate.

The Blessing is the entry point into the third or perfection stage of growth; without it, we could never enter perfection. As Unification Church members, when we enter the second and third stages of growth, we are in completely different realms from the rest of mankind.

Now that we have this general Principle viewpoint, we should think about the meaning of blessing. We usually mention first that the blessing changes blood lineage, yet how can we say that our blood lineage changes? Because of our evil nature, Satan is able to continually challenge attack and dominate us. Even in the second level of growth, we are still in an area completely under Satan's dominion. How can Satan attack and challenge us when mankind was created by God to be his sons and daughters? The only condition for Satan to take us under his dominion is because we still possess original sin. Without the process of removing our evil nature, we are still unable to enter Heavenly Father's territory or dominion. What kind of process do you think we need to remove this evil nature or original sin? Only the Messiah can remove our evil nature, but even he is limited to work within a certain territory.

Think of God -- ultimate, absolute God. Because He is an ultimate and absolute God, His territory or dominion is also His limitation. He is the owner of goodness and because of this, he has no involvement in evil. Because He is the Creator, He cannot move in a world outside His creation, and because of His perfect nature, He cannot dominate or even become involved in anything before its perfection.

The top of the third stage is God's territory; we call it His direct dominion. Anything below the third stage can only be within the indirect dominion. The Messiah is the representative of Adam, in position and value. He needs to come down to the point where Adam was before the fall; thus, his territory extends down to the top of the second stage. It is very important for the Messiah to come down to the top of the second stage. We need to unite with and follow him as part of the condition to remove our evil nature, but there is one problem. The Messiah cannot go below the second stage. To meet him, we must reach a point just below the top of the second stage.

What kind of conditions do you think we need to do this? Our Principle mentions the need to make a foundation for the Messiah. In history, the foundation for the Messiah began when Adam's family made certain conditions. Now it is me and you who need to make conditions as a foundation for the Messiah. Why do we need to build this kind of foundation? This is our indemnity condition -- the condition by which we should build a foundation for the Messiah. Why do we need to establish indemnity condition? It is because the evil nature of fallen man prevents him from totally uniting with and following the Messiah.

Can you comprehend this kind of situation? Because we have evil nature, it is difficult to reach the top of the second stage. On the other hand, the Messiah wants to offer us salvation but he cannot reach below the second stage. This creates a delicate balance; therefore, Heavenly Father, in His mercy, allows us to establish indemnity conditions. We can build a foundation for the Messiah through our indemnity conditions. Through these, man and the Messiah can reach each other. According to the Principle, there is no connecting point or relationship between Messiah and fallen mankind without indemnity conditions. Because the Messiah is in the position of the original Adam, and as fallen men, we are still under Satan's dominion, it is our responsibility to bridge the gap.

At a certain stage, people become candidates for blessing. What kinds of conditions grant them eligibility? Actually, indemnity conditions alone are never enough, but through them, the Messiah is able to defend that person in front of Heavenly Father and Satan. Because of the fulfillment of such indemnity conditions, the Messiah can take this person and draw him to himself, saying "From now I will consider you my son and my daughter." Fallen men are externally the sons and daughters of Satan. But because they make indemnity conditions, the Messiah can change their position from Satan's sons and daughters to God's sons and daughters.

We have mentioned changing our position or changing our blood lineage. How can the Messiah do that for us? Throughout history, Satan accused saints, sages and righteous people. How could Satan accept such a decision by the Messiah? Before he was born, the Messiah had a different quality from man. Even in the spiritual world, he had no relationship with Satan. In other words, there was no condition for Satan to attack or accuse him. This is what sets him apart from normal, fallen man.

I want to ask you a question about the mother of Jesus. Do you think that Mary had original sin or not? Actually she did. The Bible doesn't mention the father, but it does say that Jesus was born of Mary. If Mary had original sin, how could Jesus be born without original sin? Last year at one of our holiday speeches, Father explained this. After Adam and Eve fell, they had two sons -- Cain and Abel. There was a considerable period of time between their births. In Heavenly Father's providential work, Abel is the representative of God and Cain is the representative of Satan. God wanted His restoration providence to take place through the relationship of these two brothers, but unfortunately, Cain murdered him. Abel, however, did fulfill a foundation of faith for those who would stand in the Abel position in the future.

When we go on to look at Esau and Jacob's situation, we can see a very interesting progression. Compared with the lapse of time between the births of Cain and Abel, the births of Esau and Jacob were much closer. It was probably only just a couple of minutes that separated the births of Jacob and Esau. Because of Abel's faithful foundation, Heavenly Father's side was able to follow immediately behind the representative of Satan. It was Jacob's victory that he would come just a couple of minutes after Esau.

From this victory, Heavenly Father had to go on to a situation, where influence could be involved directly in the mother's womb. This was the case in the births of Perez and Zerah, the sons of Judah and Tamar. Think about it. First God worked through the interaction of brothers, then twins, and eventually in the mother's womb. Do you understand this story? What do you think Heavenly Father's next stage would be after working with brothers, twins and within the womb? Conception?

Heavenly Father was involved with Mary and Joseph during their engagement. Without God following this kind of process, Satan would never give up. Jesus' conception took place under divine circumstances; Heavenly Father succeeded.

What is our situation? How can our True Parents bless us? Do you think the True Parents need to come through this type of lineage or not? My understanding is that they do not. Think about it. It was because of the sacrifice made on Heavenly Father's side, that such a foundation was made. Even where there is no direct line of descendants, Heavenly Father can elevate a person on the foundation of this kind of victory. The situation of Perez and Zerah was different, but it doesn't matter. When He deals with Satan, Heavenly Father looks at the entire history of the world. To Heavenly Father, the entire worldwide history is actually only one line. A victory foundation had already been laid before Jesus' birth -- not just for Jesus, but even for the Second Coming. Certain conditions were already fulfilled which allowed Him to be involved in the conception. Then, after Jesus' life, these conditions could be extended externally to the worldwide level.

Before Jesus, the only territory for Heavenly Father to work His salvation history in was Palestine. But after Jesus, Heavenly Father's blessings were able to reach worldwide. It is true that Jacob stood upon Abel's foundation of victory, but it is better not to think too rigidly about lineage. Jacob was actually not the direct descendent of Abel. It is my understanding that if True Father had any evil nature or condition for Satan to accuse him, he couldn't be given the blessing.

Whenever Father wants to give the blessing to Unification Church members, Satan feels that he is losing his people. If it is possible, Satan doesn't want to give them up. Therefore, he accuses them. A member may have a terrible past, but Father can say, "This person is under my dominion now. He is no longer

your son, but My son!" He wants to defend us, but we need to have personally laid our foundation for the Messiah. After offering our small conditions, the Messiah can accept them and respond, "Satan, I know what kind of life he has led in the past, but he doesn't want to follow you anymore. He wants to follow God's way. He has laid these conditions and built this foundation. I accept his sacrificial work and want to make him my child."

The first important meaning of the blessing is that through it, our blood lineage changes. What does a change of blood lineage mean? Does it literally mean that our physical blood changes? No. Because both the motivation in creation was love and the motivation of the Fall stemmed from love, restoration is also involved with conditions of love. Our blessed couples and our church are no longer under a satanic love lineage, but Heavenly Father's true love lineage. The ceremony of blessing is the ceremony of inheritance. We inherited God's blood lineage from the True Parents, and in our place, True Parents take on the burden of our original sin.

Think about how wonderful the Blessing can be for those who are completely prepared and already living their lives as saints or sages. They have a minimum amount of evil nature and Satan cannot accuse them. In this case, True Parents and Heavenly Father's burden or responsibility is considerably less. But when our members have led lifestyles in which they sinned a great deal, they have created a tremendous burden for our Parents.

Next, I want to discuss the difference between marriage and the blessing. The blessing is not marriage alone, but is something completely different. It is essential to understand this point clearly. Before you actually consider yourself "married", you must pass through the important process of salvation. Then what is salvation? In a word, it is "restoration", or the process of leaving Satan's dominion to become heavenly sons and daughters. Unfortunately, after we fell, man lost the position of children of God. Therefore, we need to return to His dominion. Blessing is the first stage in the process of salvation. You should never confuse this with some image you may have that a Unification Church marriage is simply the same as any marriage in the world.

Reflecting on this point, think about what stage any of us need to be in to receive the blessing. We actually cannot receive the blessing until we reach the top of the second stage. Originally, man and woman were to receive the blessing after perfection at the top of the third stage. But because the fall took place at the top of the second stage, man must be restored at that same point. Therefore, the blessing is given at the top of the second stage.

The word "blessing" does not have a simple meaning. As you know, there were originally three kinds of blessing as God gave them to Adam and Eve, yet recently we usually only refer to one use of the word, "blessing." Why is that? Why don't we speak of the "blessing" as three separate levels of our blessed lives?

The important thing to realize is that even though we can potentially receive three kinds of blessings, not even one of these blessing has been fulfilled yet. In the truest sense, married life can begin only after perfection. That is the Principle. Without being perfected, how can we live a true married life? Originally, after Adam and Eve fulfilled the first blessing by reaching individual perfection, they could then go on to fulfill the second blessing by creating the ideal family together. The third stage would then be to dominate all things. This is the process and order which God originally established.

I don't want you to confuse the blessing with marriage. After the blessing, our main concentration should be to start going the way of God's original Principle. We can do this by assuming personal responsibility and fulfilling it. Before the blessing, our responsibility is to fulfill indemnity conditions in order to grow. If you were the only one alive on the earth with the True Parents, there would be a simple solution to the problem. You could follow them and receive the blessing without any challenge from outside society. Your course would simply be to follow your parents and inherit their tradition.

That would be enough. Adam and Eve should have grown by keeping their own portion of responsibility and following their Parent, God. After they had fulfilled this, their sons and daughters would have an easier responsibility because they had physical parents to support and guide them. Following this principle, we too, already have parents. To follow the parents' way means to keep God's or the Parents' tradition. When we attempt to study and keep their tradition, we can grow quickly. Each member including me has his own desire, but to fulfill our portion of responsibility, the desire of each one of us should be to follow Father's tradition. This is not easy to accomplish because of outside influences. Under Satan's dominion, there are so many people making bad conditions and there are so many difficult situations. Going the way of Principle after receiving the blessing is not a simple or easy period.

Our lifetime is not long enough to fulfill all three blessings. Heavenly Father's and True Parents' true desire for us is that we completely reach individual perfection and then begin married life. Although this is Heavenly Father's own desire, this would take too much time. If He were to wait for us to perfect ourselves individually first, we would be too old to marry and bear children. Therefore, Heavenly Father

bestows His grace upon us. In the way of restoration, we must follow the opposite course. Actually, we can divide our ideal family into two kinds of relationships: the relationship of ideal husband and ideal wife and later the relationship of ideal family. After this, we could naturally assume dominion over all things.

We must take the opposite course. This means we need to fulfill the parent position first, and then the position of spouse before we can reach individual perfection. This is the way of restoration. Before reaching individual perfection and becoming an ideal spouse, how is it possible for us to become ideal parents, even in the symbolic sense? Heavenly Father and True Parents have asked us to first become spiritual parents. One condition of the blessing is that we should reach spiritual parenthood, which is a "form" of ideal parenthood. Next, we need to fulfill the "form" of husband and wife relationship and then we can reach individual perfection. This is the reverse process which our generation must do. It is a great privilege that we can be given Heavenly Father's blessing before individual perfection, upon the condition of our spiritual parenthood.

The main purpose of this blessing is our own individual perfection or salvation. Usually in our Principle, we parallel salvation with restoration, but actually, restoration itself is not enough for salvation. Restoration can bring us to the top of the second stage or the stage from which the Fall took place, but after restoration, we need to go through one more stage. We describe the process of salvation as restoration plus something. In the beginning, it is hard to be more specific than this with outside guests, but after engagement, we can explain in more detail.

After fulfilling a certain period, Father gave us the opportunity to live a married life, yet actually, our married life is "borrowed." It is not originally ours, but on loan. Don't focus on the aspect of marriage, but focus instead on the fact that our blessing is our salvation.

One topic that I would like to clarify tonight is that of blessing and judgment. What comes first, salvation or judgment? Which is first, judgment or restoration? Without judgment, there can never be restoration, and accordingly there can be no blessing. The reason I say this is that originally in God's ideal, there was to be no judgment of any kind. Unfortunately, because of the Fall, we misused God's blessing. He gave us the blessing of the ability to perfect ourselves, but we became fallen men with original sin. He gave us the chance to have ideal families, but we established fallen families instead. God was prepared to bless us with the ability to take dominion over all things, but we took a fallen dominion over all things. Without eradicating our misused blessing, He could never give us the blessing of original value.

God gave Adam and Eve the potential to receive the blessing just after H\I created them. He could give this kind of potential blessing because at that time, they still only had the original nature he created them with. After the Fall, however, even though God wanted to bless mankind, He couldn't. We had already fulfilled a form of three blessings which misused the very contents of the blessing. God granted us three kinds of blessing, but through the Fall, we have misused all of them. In each case, we fulfilled our blessings on the side of evil. Now, before Heavenly Father can grant us the blessing, He needs to cancel all the misuse of our lives. This "cancellation" is what we call "judgment."

When the Bible mentions judgment, it implies that in the Last Days some amazing things will happen. The real meaning of judgment, however, is that all the fallen actions would be cancelled. Each of us has his own identity or ideas, but from God's viewpoint, they are nothing and we must start over again. Even if we are twenty, forty or sixty years old, our concepts need to be eradicated. At that point, He wants to give us the first blessing.

We also misused the second blessing by building satanic family relations. So under Heavenly Father's viewpoint, there is no true meaning in any family relations throughout the world. People call each other Mommy, Daddy, brother or sister in this life. But after entering spirit world, no one can call anyone in this way. Everything is completely cancelled. There are no relatives; there are no relationships.

It is the same for the third blessing of dominion. According to this principle, a person who has many material things for himself will become very sad if he loses everything. This is judgment. If I have one penny, and I lose it I have only lost one penny. But if I have a million and I lose them, leaving me with nothing, do you think I will feel the same? To lose a penny is no problem, but to lose a million dollars is a very different matter. In the spirit world, someone who had many material things in this life will be much worse off than other people.

Until now, all religions have taught us never to put husband and wife relations first, never to hoard material goods and to sacrifice ourselves. What does it mean to sacrifice one's self? It means to deny oneself. What God is asking fallen man to do is to deny himself to prepare to receive the blessing. It is important to deny yourself, your family and everything you own.

According to this principle, we need to go through a process of self-denial before we can receive the blessing and restoration. How do you engaged brothers and sisters feel? Have you passed through

judgment or not? Have you been through cancellation or judgment? I honestly feel that our members have no understanding of the wonderful benefit they are able to receive through the blessing. Father, above all things, is a parent and he never focuses on judgment. It is true that we must pass through judgment before blessing, but his desire is only to give us wonderful blessings. His deep prayer is that he can completely forget our past sins. He doesn't want to check our past, but to forgive us completely. It is at this stage, that he matches us.

Please remember that you matched members are different from other members and different from outside people. To be living in the second stage is to be under God's dominion. Even though it may still be in the indirect dominion, there is no judgment here. We can only be dominated by his love when we are under His dominion. How could judgment and the dominion of love be able to exist at the same time? We are in a completely different territory now. It is only under Satan's dominion that judgment is needed.

Judgment should come to us before the blessing. Compare this thinking with that of other Christians and outside people. Many Christians are doubtful concerning the concept of judgment. In fact, unless you are concerned about judgment, you cannot understand the real meaning of Christianity. To understand God and believe in His character of goodness and truth, how could we not be concerned about his judgment? Our blessed couples, however, have already passed through judgment. How fortunate we are! There is no process of judgment ahead for our blessed couples. Please realize how fortunate you are. The only thing ahead of our blessed couples is the gate to the Heavenly Kingdom. Even though you are blessed, and have not yet entered the Heavenly Kingdom yet, you are in front of its gate. It is open in front of us, but we need to enter. How can we do that? By our own portion of responsibility and by following his tradition.

It is important to understand the connection between passing through judgment and the blessing. Do you think it means that after blessing, or even matching, that we can do anything or live by any lifestyle? What is the borderline then? What can you do? What can't you do? Even the failure to follow Father's direction is not sin itself under Heavenly Father's indirect dominion. The only condition by which you can fall back down into Satan's dominion is to repeat Adam's fall. In any other case, where you make some mistake or do something wrong, you can still stay in God's indirect dominion. You will not come under His judgment, although you will need God's and True Parents' scolding. Think about the example of a baby that makes some small mistake. Mommy or Daddy may give it a scolding, but still the baby tries to climb back to the comfort of his mother's bosom. We need this kind of attitude. After the blessing, even if we receive his scolding and strong guidance, we are not undergoing judgment. It is a very fortunate position to be in.

Many of you may have had the kind of experience I did in primary or middle school. I remember my mother or father ordered me to do something, but I didn't do it. Instead, I stayed outside playing and enjoying myself all day, doing everything according to my own desire. When dinner time came and it was time for me to go back into the house, I didn't feel very comfortable. Back in the house, especially in Korea where the tradition is for the whole family to eat together, a parent may scold the children before the meal begins. If this had happened, I would have felt free. Yet I continued to feel uncomfortable until they scolded me, even though it wasn't until the end of the meal. Maybe you have had the same experience.

Even after we receive the blessing, we are not yet perfected. Sometimes when we make a mistake or have some small internal conflict we may feel judged or let feelings of resentment affect us too deeply. Sometimes we may even let these feelings control or misdirect us and our faith continues to fluctuate. After the blessing however, this is not necessary. It is understandable that we might expect God's scolding, but nothing more than that is necessary. I hope you can promise me that you will be confident about this. We can remain securely in our position without constantly backsliding. I have met many blessed couples who felt as if they were in hell because of some difficulty or internal struggle. This is really foolish. The blessing is inheritance of the title of God's son or daughter. In content, this means that we have inherited the unchanging foundation that our True Parents built.

Before we reach the top of the second stage, we are still under Satan's dominion so there cannot be any kind of stable foundation. Everything is different here, and we may feel uneasy when we try to pray. Sometimes our internal feelings and spiritual senses go soaring up, while at other times some mistake brings us quickly down. Our life is just a series of ups and downs. After the blessing, however, even if we do make some mistake, we need never come down below the top of the second stage. It is so important to realize the great difference in receiving the scolding of God in the indirect dominion of His love and receiving the accusation of Satan.

You have passed through judgment and no longer have any relationship with hell. Apart from the one condition that can make us fall, our relationship with God and the True Parents cannot be cut. I want all of you blessed couples to remember what stage you are in. Here in the third stage is where we stay. It is a completely different dominion because it is a dominion of God's love.

Now that you are engaged, what do you think is the difference between engagement and blessing? Are

you blessed couples or not? Are you at the top of the second stage or not? At which stage are you? If you are already at the top of the second stage, what is the meaning of the actual blessing ceremony? There are several important processes involved in the blessing. The first of these is the holy wine ceremony. The next is Father's blessing prayer and announcement to God and Satan. Please remember that one is Sung Sang and the other is Hyung Sang. The holy wine ceremony is like the Sung Sang level of the blessing and represents the main content of the blessing. The blessing prayer and his declaration that you are God's sons and daughters is the Hyung Sang or the external condition of the blessing. If you engaged couples really want to know where you stand, you are exactly on this line (between the second and third levels). The Sung Sang aspect of your life is already under God's indirect dominion. One step has been completed, and the rest will be completed at the time of your actual blessing ceremony.

I want to give you some detailed advice now about your daily life. The most important thing is that you understand the real meaning of the blessing. My deepest point of advice to you is never to compare your fiancé with other people after you are matched and engaged. Maybe just after the matching, you are excited because so many things are revolutionizing your life. But as the days pass and you notice the relationships of others, it is easy to compare other people to your fiancé. Have any of you experienced that? Please don't do it. It's a very serious mistake. What are you really thinking when you compare someone else to your fiancé? You are probably focusing too much on married life, thinking of your fiancé as my husband or my wife. This is the level from which you are comparing what aspects are good, bad or lacking. Be honest. This is a really bad attitude because your fiancé or your spouse is much more than simply the person who will become your marriage partner.

We may use the name "fiance" or "spouse", but your fiance is also the most important person in your salvation. Your fiance is your second Messiah, without whom your salvation is ineffective and has no meaning. It's impossible for you to reach salvation alone because Adam and Eve fell together as a couple at the time of the Fall. The final restoration process must be undertaken in pairs. Without your partner, salvation is impossible.

Many Christians compare Jesus with someone. But was it Jesus' faith, educational background or job that made him great? Of course not. The Messiah is the Messiah. In your case, your fiance is your Messiah, not someone else's messiah. You absolutely need him or her. Please remember this principle in your daily life. If you forget this, you will make many mistakes. Sometimes you may have the feeling that you have been given a burden. Thinking about our appearance, educational background, church history, capability or character, we may feel that our fiance doesn't measure up to our standard. Have you experienced this kind of depression? I think many of you have had this kind of feeling, but I hope it will not continue. Blessing is not a business, so how can there be such a thing as "a poor deal?" You absolutely need him or her because your mate is your second Messiah. This is a very important and basic point.

In so many cases, we don't understand external conditions. We don't really know what kind of conditions our ancestors laid or even how mature we have become. Before matching, Father does months and months of praying. Because he is dealing with our eternal lives, he needs to open his spiritual senses. A fiance becomes an eternal spouse, therefore he is very serious in deciding which second messiah to give us. Don't compare your fiance with others. You were actually blessed in True Parents' womb and have not yet emerged to the outside world. Even after you are blessed and enter the gate of the Heavenly Kingdom, you are still in need of rebirth, in a sense. In one sense, we are still in the parent's womb. A baby who is in the mother's womb is not in the position to think for himself, so if we compare, our standard is very bad. Please don't do that.

Even though you have been through the engagement ceremony, some of you are worrying about your life ahead as blessed couples. In front of you, you see many older blessed couples whose lifestyle is difficult and who still sacrifice a great deal. Sometimes when they struggle and fight, you are doubtful whether they really have experienced true happiness or not. This kind of thinking can make you concerned about your own future. It's true that the ideal of blessing and the reality of blessing are different. Originally, the blessing is only to be granted under the circumstances of God's ideal; and we cannot receive God's original ideal of the blessing at this time. Even though Heavenly Father wanted to give Adam and Eve the ideal blessing, their own actions brought them outside the ideal.

Presently, there are so many difficult situations influencing us, even on the levels of society and nation. But when you have blessed children and grandchildren, they will receive the blessing after reaching individual perfection at the top of the third stage instead of the top of the second stage. It is only our generation who will be blessed at the top of the second stage. Our blessed children and grandchildren will have already reached individual perfection when they are involved with organizing their family life. But in our situation, we need to witness, fundraise, sell newspapers, and take care of our families, all at the same time while we are growing to individual perfection.

You may think that you and your spouse really want to love each other, but when both of you are together in the same place day after day, do you think it will be easy to keep loving each other? Even when we feel happy about the love between us as a couple, it is normal that one partner may be more focused on the

public mission, God's will, True Parents' heart, or the nation and world situation. In this special age and generation, our blessed couples definitely do experience limitations to their loving. Yet, because of this, can we deny the great value of the blessing? The areas above the second stage and below the second stage are completely different; our blessed couples do carry a tremendous burden. However, we are fortunate compared to other members and especially to outside people. Even in our lives with our own husband or wife and children, we need to sacrifice because there is no other way to ease the heart of God.

Let us consider what the real meaning of going the reverse way. Do you think it means going the wide or the narrow way? The narrow way is the reverse way. Even to come through this narrow hole by myself is not easy, but it is essential that each of us goes through as a couple. In my case, I have a wife and six children. How is it possible for us to get through this narrow space? The only way to reach individual perfection is one by one. For my spouse to be able to pass through this narrow space, she needs to be separate from me. Even my lovely child must experience some separation before the parent-child relationship can be fully developed. This does not mean only physical separation. But even in the essence of our internal lives, our particular generation must go a sacrificial way and endure special circumstances. The serious kinds of circumstances we pass through ourselves will never happen again. Therefore, in preparing for the blessing, try to concentrate on fulfilling internal conditions. It is not external faith or an educational background that is important, but rather the fulfillment of our first objective purpose, the perfection of our love for God.

According to the Principle of Creation, there need to be triple objective purposes for the four position foundation to be fulfilled. Usually these positions are represented by God, Adam, Eve and a child. In Adam's case, his first objective purpose is to God, second to his spouse and third to his child. In the woman's case also, God is her first objective purpose, her husband is her second objective purpose, and third is her child. In the child's case also, God is his first objective purpose, second is his father and third is his mother. The best condition you and your spouse can do to prepare for the blessing and blessed life is to concentrate on how you can fulfill the first objective purpose to God. If you train yourself to fulfill this lifestyle, you will easily fulfill your relationship with your spouse and your child. If you begin your family life with your spouse and have a child together, before you have made this kind of relationship, difficulties will often arise. Your spouse and your child are on the visible side, and Heavenly Father is on the invisible side. It is not difficult to make a love relationship with someone who is clearly visible, but it is not so easy with invisible God. You and your spouse should check each other. If you are really concerned about your blessed life together, the most important thing to concentrate on is how you and your partner are fulfilling your first objective purposes to God.

Without a strong relationship with God, a blessed couple could easily feel that there is too much sacrifice. If you have a strong relationship with God, however, you can easily overcome this kind of feeling. Don't try to love each other horizontally because you will easily come down if you find any challenge pressing on you. After you have fallen down you will have no relationship, so don't allow the direction of your relationship to become horizontal, even if you meet a strong or challenging situation. Normally, it is easy for you to love each other during the matching period. Sometimes you share letters or show each other your good aspects, make-up, etc. But when you are together for 24 hours, it is not easy. Communication can be difficult, as we learn to share with each other more and more deeply. Horizontal love is always changing its direction because it is not firmly centered on God, so it is important to learn to love each other through God.

What percentage of harmony is there amongst you matched members and your fiancés? Does it seem good? "Great?" Does great mean 99% harmony, or 75% harmony? Please don't concentrate on harmony! Why not? I want to explain. Presently, you may have the opportunity to see your fiance or receive a letter from him. Everything may seem wonderful or great, but when you live together 24 hours, many different things will come up. You and your fiance have lived for over 24 years under completely different circumstances. You may have experienced different cultural or family backgrounds or different educational backgrounds, so for you to hope for complete harmony automatically is a mistake. You have really misunderstood. It is in this sense that I advise you not to concentrate on forming any particular degree of harmony. If you find twenty per cent harmony, it is a good match. Perhaps your present feeling has been, "What shall I do, our harmony is only 50% or 60% harmony and everything else is difficult." In this case, after my speech, you can think about how fortunate you are if you feel united 50%. Please keep this kind of feeling. There are many reasons why it is true.

Suppose after the matching, a husband and wife find approximately 20% harmony. The husband's standard and center of thinking is this point here and the wife's is here (draws diagram). Yet because of our Heavenly Father's blessing, our goal is here (indicating a point above each of the two points). Even though you have 20% harmony, you can't be satisfied because your goal is here, in God. Don't try to find unity within each other. It is better to ask your fiance why he didn't come closer to here (indicating God's position). It is absolutely wrong for the husband to wonder why his wife isn't coming here (to unite with his own position). Never hope for this, but try instead to guide your husband or wife to God's position. If you try to develop your relationship with God first, then one or two years later, you will both arrive here; (at a closer position to God) with more area of unity with each other. If you do, you will have kept your

own integrity and character, but at the same time, your love will be reaching your spouse through God. Your spouse will also be able to do the same, and maintain her own character as well.

Our percentages of harmony may not be so ideal, but our process is. There is no other way, so don't ask your spouse horizontally to unite with you. Instead, demand of yourself to become closer and closer to God. We are all following the same process, but because everyone has a different character, some of us want to develop our give and take quickly while others are slower or even reluctant. If you keep centered on God, however, this will not be a problem for you. At some point, both husband and wife will reach here (indicating God), together and find 100% harmony. In another situation a husband may stay here and his wife may stay here, very distant from each other. Actually, they are not stationary but always changing. Perhaps one person will reach a certain point and after waiting for some time, address her spouse, "Please come quickly to this level." I urge you not to do this; everyone's tests are different. Some of us move slowly, while others go more quickly. We shouldn't ask each other to do this. Instead, each of us should concentrate on working to become closer and closer to God. Believe, me, even 20% harmony in the beginning is good.

Remember, that in every case where there is a struggle with your spouse or family the main problem is that you don't understand your own nature or character. These perfectly formed circles actually represent ideal character, but unfortunately, our characters cannot all be represented by a perfect circle. Someone has to have this kind of terrible character (indicating • an irregular shape on the blackboard). We are nearly always like this and never like this (true circle). Our characters have been growing under Satan's dominion for 6000 years so if two people are struggling together it is because everybody has sharp edges: they can easily dig into each other. It's true. Because of this 100% harmony will be a very difficult thing for our generation to achieve. To whom could Father match this person and expect them to be 100% harmonious?

I remember in Korea, either in the 777 or in the 1800 Couple Blessing, there was a member who really struggled with Father's direction at the matching time. The first time Father spoke to this member he indicated, "This person is really wonderful for you. You should discuss." The woman went away to discuss with the brother, but he denied her and she became depressed. Then Father suggested another brother for her saying, "This person is really a good complement for you." She was again denied. On the last day, when Father said the same words about another brother, this sister was very depressed and doubtful. By what method can Father match people? For three days, Father continued to say "This person is wonderful" or "He is the best person." How can there be so many "best" persons? This sister didn't understand about her character. Actually, this does not just apply to her but to each of us. Everybody is a son or daughter to Heavenly Father and True Parents. But in so many cases, our characters are like this (irregular shapes). Father might first have thought about this kind of brother (one irregular shape). It seems to fit very well. But when this brother denied her, Father had to think again. Father is well aware that nobody has an ideal character, but he tries to match us so that everyone can be complemented and become his son or daughter.

If you are really concerned about harmony, I advise you not to judge your situation too quickly. This is a terrible attitude. When you are with your fiancé or spouse, you may sometimes have different opinions about something. What should you do? Under the ideal of the blessing, it would be wonderful to have exactly the same opinion or idea, but your opinions are bound to be different sometimes. In these circumstances, I have learned from Father's guidance that the best thing to do is to try to think about whose way is more sacrificial or who thinks more of the future, and whose opinion is the more public one. When we bring ourselves under God's dominion, we really live public lives. Try to think of the more public side, or the purpose that considers the whole rather than the individual. How do we decide what is the public purpose and what is the individual purpose? In our generation, the sacrificial way is the public way. Sometimes when the two of you hold different opinions, compare whose opinion is the sacrificial or public one. My wife and I decided just after our Blessing that there would be no husband's or wife's opinion under any circumstances; in every case, we would try to follow the public opinion. It didn't matter whose opinion it was. Sometimes our opinions are just temporal, and don't focus on the future. But a far-sighted opinion is a better opinion. You need to make a certain standard, because as you communicate you may sometimes arrive at a completely different opinion.

Now that you are matched, what kinds of relationship do you have with each other? Previously there was not such a long time between matching and blessing, but in your case, it must seem like a rather long time. In this in-between period, how are we to relate to each other? After your engagement ceremony, I visited some local centers. At our meetings, I usually asked matched members, "How often do you send your fiancé a letter: once a week, or once a month, or once a day?" At that time, I guided them: "Whatever you decide is good. But please try to be consistent." In some cases, in the month after matching members wrote every day, but then in the second month once a week, and then after three months, once in two weeks. I don't like this kind of attitude. Think about your public mission and try to regulate your communication with your fiancé accordingly. It is natural that you will be concerned about your fiancé, and you do need to send letters to develop communication with her. How often do you think is best? What will your fiancé's feeling be if you send a letter every day in the beginning but after this,

you do not continue a consistent pattern of communication? What would he or she feel? My suggestion to you is to write a minimum of once a month. You should report to your fiance the important events of your lifestyle, not only your external daily schedule; what is most important is your internal content: how you are developing your relationship with True Parents and your members and how your heart is developing. You can especially mention people you have met recently and the things that you discussed, expressing how you felt or what you learned. This kind of thing will be helpful to each of you.

There are many kind of methods. Sometimes members keep a diary of their daily life. Usually at evening prayer time, they record certain things in a notebook. Because of your busy schedule, you need only devote a small amount of time keeping such a notebook. Any spare time you have, you can write down even simple things -- your thinking and your internal feeling. Presently many of you think you must send your letter immediately after you have written it. Don't think like this. You can write every day or at any time when you have the chance. Then at certain times, you can gather the information together and send it to your fiance. But please continue this process in your relationship. Even though you are matched, you have not yet been blessed, so you should focus completely on your public mission. Don't focus on your fiance, but at least try to continue such a process of recording. Even to write something each day should not be a problem if you are diligent.

Here in the New York area there are many fiancés living close to each other. What is it like for you when you meet each other? There will be many times when you meet each other; so what form of meeting should you use? Is shaking hands good? Or embracing? Or kissing? What exactly do you want? What degree of closeness should or shouldn't be expressed.

You are young people and to become closer and closer to each other is not good at this stage. You and your fiance have eternity before you. Please don't be impatient about this point. The important thing to realize is that your physical closeness has no meaning in itself; it is the content of your love that is important. Your fiance is also your second messiah, and you need certain development of heart before you can fully embrace him or her. To say hello, shake hands, or even kiss is simple. Anybody can do it. But the preparation of your heart is more difficult. Perhaps shaking hands is O.K., but please don't do this too often. I don't like to see everyone shaking hands in the lobby and Grand Ballroom of this building. It would be difficult for Father to make a rule directly about this point, because anyone who made a mistake would need a scolding. Remember that this is the time for internal preparation. Try to focus more and more deeply on your internal content. You are really fortunate to have a lot of time after the matching but before the blessing.

Your physical, internal and spiritual preparation is not sufficient in most cases; so you can prepare yourselves through this kind of period.