

Our Families in Service to the World: Talks Given to International Missionaries

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Excerpts



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The year 1980 began a new level of foreign missionary activity. At that time, Heavenly Father and True Parents granted the spouses of foreign missionaries permission to begin their families in the mission countries. I am very concerned about this new dispensation because, although it broadens our church's base, it is not a simple thing for each couple or family to manage these new responsibilities.

If you cannot understand your spiritual responsibility, your life of faith may suffer. The True Parents give the blessing which allows us to form ideal families. Many members desire to form an *ideal family*. I urge you not to miss the point: the term *ideal* does not mean to center on the family, but rather on the establishment of God's ideal. The "ideal family" is one which fulfills God's ideal. In this sense, if you don't fulfill your responsibility, the result of your failure will not simply mean that foreign mission families must stay on the family level. It is essential that you realize your failure as a blessed family will influence your mission country. God's original plan is to bless the country through blessed couples.

Heavenly Father's purpose is not simply to give His permission for you to live as a family. His desire is to bless each country. In this sense, each foreign missionary blessed couple's responsibility is crucially important. Failure to understand this will have bearing on your ancestors' and descendants' growth as well as your own.

The main point a blessed couple should be concerned with is how to keep God's blessing. Our age of blessed couples is like a bridge. We are not at the level of Adam and Eve, who were to receive God's original blessing; nor are we like those of the future who will receive blessing after reaching perfection.

This age of blessed couples is unique. It is bridging God's original intention with its restoration. It need only come once in human history. But each blessed couple participates. Because we find ourselves in this unique circumstance, the important thing is responsibility, and how we fulfill it. If we cannot fulfill it, our blessing has little meaning.

I have noticed among members the tendency to compare their blessing with the True Parents' blessing. It is impossible; the quality, level and significance are vastly different. Even though our True Parents realize that their own family has absolute value and preciousness in the sight of God, they have really sacrificed themselves and devoted their lives to create the ideal family through their blessing. They understand Principle; when they sacrifice their children for the sake of a greater purpose, Heavenly Father has the freedom to give their children even greater blessing.

If as blessed couples we compare our lives with True Parents, we will be ashamed of our standard next to theirs. More important than comparison is devotion and focusing on our responsibilities as blessed couples. It is essential to develop the purest attitude and then devote your daily lives to God.

When Heavenly Father originally wanted to bless Adam and Eve, it was a blessing based solely on His love. God's true love has no limitations. God envisioned that when two people married, there would also be no limitation of the love they could give to each other.

At this time in history, can we honestly say that we are able to do that? Since none of us has reached God's ideal of perfection, our conscience bothers us when we focus mainly on loving our spouses and children. Somehow, we feel ashamed and spiritually uncomfortable. There is an explanation: our blessing is not the original one God wanted to give. The original blessing would have meant completely unlimited love between God and man, man and woman, and parents and children.

There is order to love. The creation and entire cosmos are ruled by heavenly order. Originally God set up love to "rule" man. Love rules man even more than the Principle. Love is even stronger than the Principle.

The root of all love is parental love; it is the love God as a parent has for us, His children. When blessed couples relate to each other without centering on God and the True Parents, they begin to feel uncomfortable. Our original mind, our conscience, pricks us. We remember once again that, even though we are blessed, our first and most essential goal is how to cultivate a personal relationship with God and True Parents. As a blessed couple it is actually normal to feel somewhat uncomfortable. The world is not yet.

restored; therefore, the environment is also not yet perfected. Each of us understands the importance of blessed families needing a *holy* or pure environment. In this age of restoration, it would be abnormal for blessed couples not to have some concern about housing, food, raising children, etc. Yet if, as blessed couples, we try to concern ourselves with only our living environment, we actually misdirect our own lives. We should wait until God and True Parents guide us to begin to take care of our families. Even as blessed couples our standard of living must go through a process of development; we should not try to reach a new level of God's dispensation before enough indemnity has been paid.

It is best to emulate the True Parents' lifestyle and understand God's viewpoint on blessed couples in this unique age. As single people, it is easier to devote ourselves to God and church activities. However, when we also have a spouse and children to take care of, it becomes more complicated to devote ourselves with our former zeal.

Even though we know the Principle, our conscience doesn't completely follow its direction. True Father's situation is so different. He absolutely knows heavenly principle. His family is the first blessed family. He built our tradition during difficult circumstances with his own family. This was extremely painful for him. How much easier it would have been for him had the environment already been prepared before he was blessed. Instead he had to build the environment according to God's ideal during the time of restoration.

Nobody understood him. Nobody supported him. He couldn't explain anything deeply enough to solicit anyone's help. He had to do everything himself. His whole life has been a sacrifice.

When I feel things are very difficult in my physical family, I usually reflect on this and compare my family to True Parent's family. I try to remember the tradition which Father built while he was raising his family. Of course, it is natural to have concern about our family. I cannot explain how sad I was to know that my children often went hungry. As their father, I was extremely concerned; I could only calm myself by thinking that even though they were physically hungry, this kind of indemnity condition would allow them to later receive wonderful blessings later.

I know that Heavenly Father is my father. He is the parent of love. His desire is to give us a true blessing. But if we don't make some condition of sacrifice, Heavenly Father can't give us any blessings. He examines our motivation and actions daily; when we make small conditions of sacrifice, He accepts them and willingly gives us His blessings.

When blessed couples have children, it is natural to be concerned about them: their health, their intellectual development, their future. However, I want to impress upon you that the most important thing is the state of their spiritual health. If blessed children are not strong or faithful, their parents suffer.

I have often pondered the meaning of real love. Even though I can't give my children the best food or provide them with the best education, my wife and I can give them a tradition of family life. If Heavenly Father can see their sincerity in living according to His standard and principle of tradition and based on that remember them and give them blessings, I have no doubt they will grow spiritually strong. It is most important for me to remember that my children actually belong to God and True Parents before they belong to my wife and me.

We so often misuse Heavenly Father's Principle and tradition. I feel this is especially true with the blessing. I have often heard couples comment, "Blessed children are so important. It is crucial that they be educated, cared for and served." Of course, on one level this is true. But before you hold, serve, protect and take care of blessed children, as a couple you need to fulfill God's Principle and your portion of responsibility.

The Bible mentions the process of grafting the wild olive branch to the true olive tree. As I indicated before, we know that the universe is based on order. There is even order and principle in a tree. If a branch is grafted upside down, it will soon die. It is the same for us. We are trying to be grafted to the True Parents.

Many times, we have the chance to study the Principle and listen to True Father's speeches. Yet too often people hear something different or read something into the things which Father says. When this happens, they find misdirection instead of a clear answer. What is the correct direction?

Observe the True Parents. Their lives are absolutely centered on God. They are completely devoted to God's dispensation and work hard for God's will. The traditions by which our True Parents live their lives are God's; yet many times members have been grafted upside down and, as a result, exhibit a very self-centered life. Members who use the Principle to serve their own ideas make the mistake of being grafted upside down. Each of us has no doubt seen that many members who have worked hard for years suddenly lose power and even leave the church. The grafting was wrong.

After we are grafted, we each need to bind ourselves closer to the True Parents in order to protect ourselves from the *wind* of Satan's world. We need to follow our Abel figure's guidance. But even this is not enough. We need to find the original order of love and then apply it in our daily relationships. Heavenly Father loved Adam and Eve and the Archangel, but all of them misused the true order of love.

I feel that blessed couples should first examine how much they love God and True Parents compared to their spouse or children.

Then it becomes crucial for them to set the tradition by which their children can live. Blessed children will not automatically become saints. This world is still completely under Satan. As your children grow, they will become more and more interested in the world, what their friends say and do. Your children will receive an education directly or indirectly through the lifestyle you and your spouse exhibit. If you devote yourselves, your marriage and family to God and True Parents, the hearts of your children will be deeply moved. They will begin to recognize that their parents are completely devoted to God's will and that the first objects of your love are God and True Parents. They will inherit it; even small children can begin to develop this goodly habit.

Blessed couples living in mission nations are, according to God's viewpoint, the Abel of Abels of that country. Yet without God's support, the people of your country have no hope. One important thing to remember is that God works through the establishment of certain conditions. God couldn't arbitrarily give blessings with no foundation of sacrifice.

The story of Cain and Abel has become much more than a lesson to Unification Church members. We find Cain and Abel in our everyday relationships. We find Cain and Abel within ourselves. Why did God originally divide them? The main purpose was to build up harmony and order, since the fall of man had destroyed man. Harmony and order can be found through such struggle. When we are given opportunities to pay the indemnity of Cain and Abel, we then have the chance to find the correct order of love.

The elder and younger brothers changed positions. There was establishment of a new order. Unfortunately, Cain didn't understand Abel's value and significance. Because these positions are still in the process of restoration, it is normal for Cain to fail to understand, respect or even recognize Abel.

A true Abel understands that Cain is really his brother and that they have the same parents. Therefore, even in the situation where Cain cannot recognize Abel, it is possible that Abel can understand who Cain is. When the two unite, Heavenly Father has a base upon which to work.

This principle carries through to the 36 Couples. True Parents' children sacrifice for 36 Couples. Actually, the 36 Couples are in the Cain position. Yet True Parents could not focus on loving, educating or guiding

their own physical (Abel) children. Father spent such a small amount of time with his own children; perhaps 1/30th of his time was spent with his own family.

The 36 Couples have no right to utter even one word of complaint toward the True Children. Because the True Parents' attention was focused on the disciples in Cain's position, their own children have become almost like orphans. True Parents are the owners of love.

Can any of us even imagine how painful it is for them to have sacrificed loving their own children the way they have? Yet, True Parents show us the absolute standard of following the Principle: they love Cain before they love Abel. After 1975, conditions were fulfilled on the national level and the True Parents could then begin to love their own children.

It is important for missionary blessed couples to understand this point. Before the restoration of your nation, you have no right to love your own children more than your members. Therefore, your attitude is of paramount importance. Daily, check the love you share with your members and with your own children. Compare the two and then decide how to follow the Principle even more closely. If you love your physical children more than your members; before the restoration of your nation, you are violating the heavenly law of the order of love.

Think of the process of True Parents' love and principle. They couldn't love their own children for fourteen years. From 1960-1975 Father loved and educated his disciples. It must have been a constant struggle in his mind to love them more than his own children. Even though we may struggle with feelings of a deep desire to love our own children more than our mission, the struggle that True Parents dealt with was much deeper. Father is observing all foreign missionary blessed couples based on the standard he used in his own life. Because he is, it is essential that you remember his principle: don't love your own children more than the native people, until your country is restored.