

HYUN JIN MOON

ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD

Statement by Dr. Hyun Jin Moon Regarding Unification Church Funeral Service for Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon

September 13, 2012

A Painful Decision

Although my heart grieves as a son for the untimely passing of my father, I have decided, after deep and painful reflection, not to participate in the Unification Church's memorial service for him. Clearly, this is a serious step. However, the Unification Church leadership, including members of my own family, has distorted his life work and teaching beyond all recognition. Their memorial service will try to legitimize an idea of his legacy that has nothing to do with the principles that he lived by. My attendance would appear to endorse what they are doing. I do not.

Appreciation of My Father's Life

My father lived a remarkable life, and it is important for us to honor that life in the proper way. As the eldest living son*, I owe it to my father to be true to his memory. My father was first and foremost a filial son to God, committing his entire life and foundation to the providential mission of building a world of peace and reconciliation, centered upon the vision of One Family under God. By doing so he sought to comfort God's agonizing heart.

His deep, personal relationship with God fueled his passionate desire to bring God's blessing to all of His children, regardless of the pretensions—be they racial, ethnic, national, or even religious—that so often divide and alienate the human family. His aspiration was for a global God-centered family rooted in universal principles and the value system of True Love, a selfless love manifested as “living for the sake of others.”

This is the dream of God and my father took ownership of it, living in order to fulfill it through his ministry and works. I know that his greatest desire was to set a precedent of devotion to God's Will and, thereby, inspire others to work with the same passionate commitment and sense of ownership to make God's dream a reality.

A Living Memorial

The most fitting tribute to my father will be to create a living monument to the dream which inspired his life. His vision and pioneering spirit is like a foundation stone upon which others must now build, continuing the efforts he began with the same zeal. That is the best way, I believe, to honor him and consecrate a fitting legacy to a life which has given so much.

More than Founder of a Church

In contrast to my father's embracing universal vision, the Unification Church leadership today has substituted a narrow, and self-serving understanding that turns its back on the providential purpose that drove my father. They have intentionally presented him as the founder of, and supreme authority over, yet another church, or new religion, rather than as a loving parent anxious that all people should grow to fulfill their personal responsibility as God's sons and daughters. They are even seeking to deify him, setting him on a different plane from the rest of humanity. Yet, this is contrary to his core teaching about the central place of human responsibility in God's providence and it is used as a basis to assert absolute authority over the Unification members.

Aligned with My Father

These problems did not arise yesterday. I have long acknowledged that there was truth to at least some of the criticisms leveled by society against the Unification movement. I challenged those in

prominent positions within that movement, who unforgivably misused my father's name and authority. My reforming efforts sparked increasingly aggressive opposition from these corrupt and coercive Unification leaders, at first privately while I had responsibilities within the movement, and later more openly. Since 2009, I have faced character assassination and lawsuits, and, most painfully, systematic efforts to alienate my father and I from each other. Under these circumstances I decided to pursue the vision for fulfilling God's dream, that is truly aligned with all my father stood for, through other channels including the Global Peace Festival Foundation.

A Separate Path

I am now walking a separate path and have no part in any supposed "succession struggle" within the Unification movement. I am carrying on the work begun by my father and through it I am connected both to him and his legacy. I shall continue to use the resources available to me to further that work.

Meanwhile, my brothers, Kook Jin and Hyung Jin Moon, now claim that every project and organization my father was ever associated with in any way are under their control. They falsely claim that the worldwide Unification movement is bound by a monolithic and absolutist structure and are aggressively trying to seize all Unification-related resources and organizations including those under my legitimate purview.

This is a conflict that only they seek to pursue. It would end tomorrow if they overcame their lust for acquisition.

Responsibility as an Elder Son

Until now, I have remained silent in the face of such actions. I wanted to shield the Moon family name from public disrepute and protect the dignity of my father's legacy. Yet my efforts to fulfill my responsibility as an elder son and properly dignify his memory have been thwarted. Even my name and the names of my wife and children were excluded from the official public announcement of the bereaved family members, as if to imply that I am no longer my father's son.

Representing My Father's True Legacy

I am, therefore, compelled by all that is right and true, to speak out and give voice to the ideal and standards espoused by my father. The Unification Church that I knew in the past has been destroyed and its current regime has nothing to do with my father's vision or the foundation through which I am now working to give substance to it. Under these circumstances, I cannot attend the Unification Church memorial service and must honor my father in a manner that more fittingly represents his true legacy. Therefore, I will hold a memorial service for him. I love my father dearly and profoundly respect the providence of God to which he devoted his life. It must not be misrepresented.

I will continue to work, together with all those inspired by his vision, to give meaning and substance to his legacy. I want to offer my deep appreciation to all those who have expressed their sincere respect for my father and invite everyone who has taken the time to read this statement to make a prayerful commitment to do the same. May his spirit and conviction continue to live through us.

[Note:

* Hyun Jin Moon is NOT the oldest living son of Sun Myung Moon.

Hyun Jin Moon is the oldest living son of Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han. Hyun Jin Moon was born in 1969.

However Sun Myung Moon's oldest living son is Sung Jin Moon, son of Sun Myung Moon and Sung Il Choi. Sung Jin Moon was born in 1946.]