



Heavenly Parent's Holy Community

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

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Dear Families,

Announcing the Season of Special Grace March 26—May 4 2023

We are coming ever closer to May 5th and the long-awaited Dedication of the Cheonwongung. I think we are all looking forward to that great day with a mixture of anticipation, and probably a touch of concern as well. How do we really feel about it? Are we truly ready to make our offering of faith and attendance?

Today I want to announce that our worldwide family of faith is being invited and encouraged to join a special period of reflection, repentance and redetermination, in preparation for this great and holy day. It will be a chance for us to seek grace for the mistakes we may have made, be they small or large, and also to ask forgiveness for all the active duties of faith that we may have neglected. As a leader, I find I need this grace more than anyone else. One scripture verse that always brings me to tears is Song of Solomon 1:6 "They made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept."

When the great King David was denounced and exposed for his own sins by the prophet Nathan, he took it to deeply to heart and prayed in genuine repentance: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation." [Psalm 51: 10-12]

Above all, we need and want to have a clean heart to approach our Heavenly Parent. Without that we can easily feel dirty or even unacceptable. What is the point of celebrating the dedication of the Cheonwongung, the Holy Temple of God, if we ourselves feel unworthy to enter it? God himself would surely be distressed if we felt that way. As True Mother has recently been saying, we need the inner cleansing of the Holy Spirit. Without that, we can be just hanging on, waiting for a miracle, or a date on a calendar that we can cross off and say "We made it."

In his speech "The New Future of Christianity" (1974) True Father said: "The chance has arrived for all of us. The greatest opportunity in any man's lifetime is now knocking at our door. Please be humble, and open yourself to great new hope! This is the time for unprecedented spiritual awakening."

We believe that is true. We stand today at a time of unprecedented spiritual awakening. Not only in the Family Federation and Unification Church but in all churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and gurdwaras throughout the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community. With this in mind, Fumiko and I and all of our EUME leadership team would like to invite you and your family to join us in the 40 Day Period of Special Grace from March 26th until May 4th with the hope and determination to bring about a great revival.

Sincerely,

Michael & Fumiko Balcomb
Regional President, Heavenly Europe & the Middle East

A Season of Grace

Let's encourage all of our members to participate in the Special Grace

Contents

- Scriptural Teachings on Grace and Forgiveness
- True Parents' Words on the Heavenly Law and Way of Life
- Why is Grace is being offered now?
- Our responsibility to ourselves and our community
- *Special* Grace
- Some practical points
- Q & A

We all need Grace

When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening ... wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 1:15-18

We all need Grace

They said, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” When they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.”

Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

John 8:1-11

The three basic laws of Heaven

So do you understand the three points? Three things. Purity, equality of all people, and then respect for public money. You must make these things your habit. Only when you reach the stage in which, as soon as your mouth and eyes open and those words come out, can you keep yourself from taking wrong actions.

There is no doubt you will face these matters in life. There will probably be many such circumstances, but if you make an effort to abstain from violating the law, the law will turn you into a victorious person. Then I won't have to tell you anything. Amen! This is the conclusion.

True Father: The Coronation of God's Kingship, Jan 13, 2001

The plague of selfish thinking

Today, the fruit of the fall is seen clearly in the extremes of selfish thinking and behavior that rage around us with impunity. I am speaking of the reprehensible behavior of people routinely seeking their own benefit and convenience regardless of the position and situation of others. I refer to the shameless attitudes of people trying to save themselves without concern as to whether others live or die. These are examples of the type of behavior that brought about the fall.

This is certainly not the type of behavior planned by God at the time of creation. God did not desire to bring about such a world, and we did not want to be born into such a world.

True Mother: God is the Origin of Peace, September 14, 2002

Why Grace is Being Offered at this Time



We want to stand in the Presence of God

- The Cheonwongung will be dedicated on May 5th
- True Mother is praying that it will be the meeting place between Heavenly Parent & all humanity
- Yet without God, it is just another building
- Without people to meet God, it is just another building
- Let us be ready!

Our Season of Grace

- 40 Days: Sunday March 26th – Thursday May 4th
- Begin and end with communal prayer
- Daily individual conditions
- Offering a new determination in writing
- Receiving the Holy Wine

One Holy Wine, Four Meanings

- Holy Wine of Special Grace – symbolizing forgiveness
- Holy Wine of Blessing – the change of blood lineage
- Holy Wine of CheonIlGuk Registration – our commitment to the Blessed Community
- Holy Wine of Cheonbo Victors – our responsibility in life

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- Holy Wine of Special Grace – symbolizing forgiveness
 - This will be multiplied on March 22 during our prayer
 - Communities should further multiply the wine
 - We recommend offering the Holy Wine widely (more than once) to all those who wish to partake
 - This holy wine is taken as an individual

One Holy Wine, Four Meanings

- Holy Wine of CheonilGuk Registration
 - All Blessed Couples were invited to take this Holy Wine on Foundation Day 2013, and at each subsequent Blessings
 - However, some couples missed doing so, especially during the Covid years 2020-22. And some are not sure if they did or not.
 - The Cheonilguk Registration Wine may be taken in the community AS A COUPLE where this is possible
 - Couples who wish to do so may take the Registration Wine by *joining the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony* in Korea or in Albania

One Holy Wine, Four Meanings

○ Holy Wine of Cheonbo Victors

- *All Blessed Couples* are invited and encouraged to become Cheonbo Victors by completing the Liberation and Blessing of 430 Generations of Ancestors and 430 couples on earth.
- Cheonbo Victors are inducted periodically and the next "class" will be in **October 2023**. A separate briefing will be held for candidate Victors one week from today on March 25th
- Couples who wish to become Cheonbo Victors must take the *Cheonbo Holy Wine*. As a dispensation, this wine can be taken BEFORE fulfilling all requirements by **those who commit to do so**