

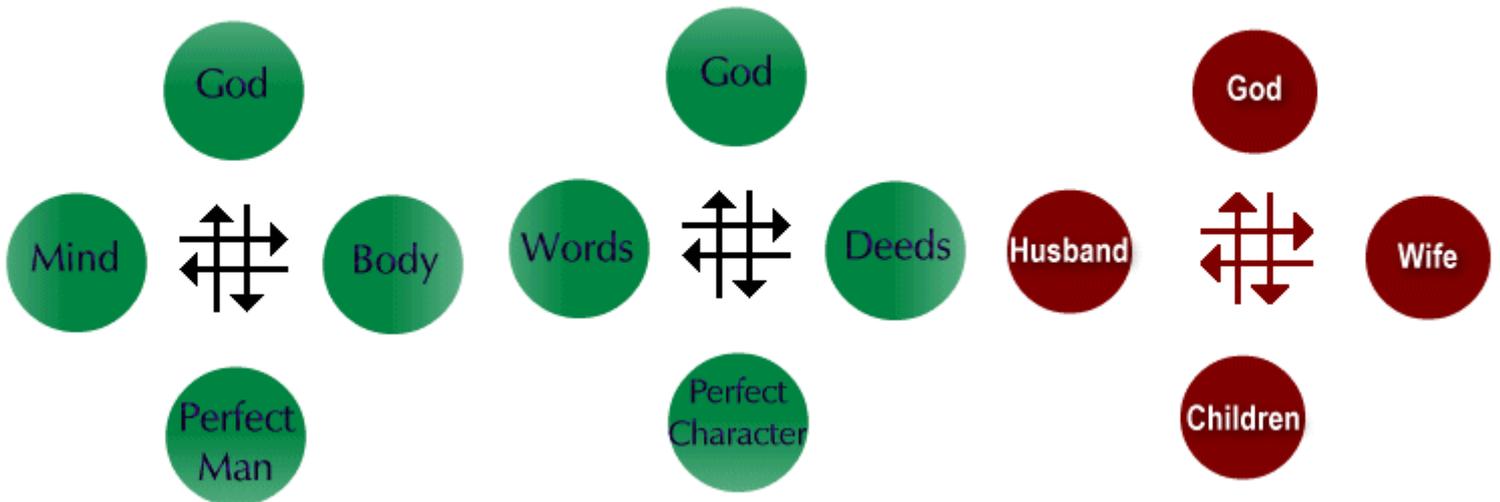


What is the Blessing?

Everyone without exception wants to be happy, and nothing makes us happier than sharing love -- between parents and children, husband and wife, and between brothers, sisters, relatives and friends. But where does this desire for love and happiness come from? We believe that it comes from God. The desire for love and happiness is the most fundamental part of God's nature. Since God created us in His own image, it is also the most fundamental part of our nature. Accordingly, in the beginning, God must have planned an original ideal world in which the universal desire for love and happiness could be fully realized. What, then, was His original plan?

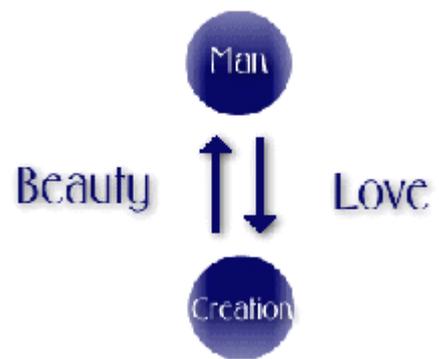
The Three Great Blessings

In the Bible, in **Genesis 1:28**, God instructed the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, to "be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth, and have dominion over the creation". Analyzing these three great blessings we can understand God's plan clearly.



The First Blessing:

Just as a tree bears fruit only when it is mature, a person becomes fruitful only when he or she achieves maturity, both spiritually and physically. This is accomplished by totally uniting one's mind, heart and body centered on God. When a person's thoughts and feelings are one with God, his actions will naturally be in accordance with God's Will. Such a person becomes God's temple and a pure channel of His Love. He experiences the Heart of God as if it were his own, so he would never commit any sinful act that would cause God grief. Those who realize this first blessing are God's True sons and daughters.



The Second Blessing:

After achieving the first blessing, a man and a woman should join in loving oneness as husband and wife and raise children. In this family, the husband shares God's True love in a masculine form with his wife and children. The wife shares God's True love in a feminine form with her husband and children. The man who fulfills this ideal is a true husband and a true father; such a woman is a true wife and a true mother. Since they are bound together by God's eternal, absolute and unchanging love, this husband and wife could never betray one another by committing adultery. They would never divorce. The members of such a family experience God's deepest love. Love is the source of joy, so their happiness is infinite. Eventually, such families would form an ideal society, nation and world.

The Third Blessing:

Only those who love God and love others are truly qualified to dominate the natural world. By fulfilling God's first and second blessings, therefore, they automatically receive this right of dominion. Such people will naturally treat the creation, the earth and all its creatures, with love and respect. They will develop a scientifically advanced civilization in which all of God's children can live in comfort. They will use everything God has created for only good purposes. They will give love to the creation, and the creation will return beauty to them. The fulfillment of the third blessing would result in ever expanding joy for God, mankind and the creation.

What Went Wrong?



Can anyone deny that the world we live in today is far from that which God originally planned? Our air, land and water becomes more contaminated day by day. There are no ideal nations. Broken families, crime, drugs, AIDS, and pornography are just some of the problems that plague our societies. Families the world over are torn apart, victims of betrayed love. We can find few individuals truly living God-centered lives. What went wrong?

Obviously, our first human ancestors, Adam and Eve, failed to fulfill the three great blessings given by God. The Bible tells us that Eve, tempted by the jealous angel Lucifer (symbolized by a snake), violated God's commandment. Then she tempted Adam to do the same. In shame, they covered their sexual parts and hid from God, clearly indicating that the original sin committed by Lucifer, Eve and Adam was a sexual sin. According to Rev. Moon's explanation, Adam and Eve sinned by joining sexually as husband and wife **before reaching spiritual maturity**. Instead of becoming one in heart with God, fulfilling the first blessing, they became one with the fallen angel, later known as Satan. Because they lacked God's True Love and were motivated only by sexual desire, it was impossible for them to form a True family. Their sons, Cain and Abel, were conceived in sin. Unable to love his younger brother, Cain killed Abel. Indeed, human history began in sin, the sins of fornication and murder. Today's world, filled with evil, is the result.

Did God abandon His dream of an ideal world when His children betrayed Him? Of course not. God's Love is eternal, absolute and unchanging. Therefore, He worked throughout history to restore His original ideal. Two thousand years ago He sent His son Jesus for this purpose. Through his life, teachings and victorious resurrection, Jesus opened the way for fallen man to return to God. He established the model of individual perfection through his fulfillment of God's first blessing. However, because the chosen people did not accept Jesus at that time, the realization of God's second and third blessings had to be postponed until today.

The Blessing Ceremony

In 1960, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han were blessed in marriage and established a model of a True, God-centered family. In later years, they extended God's Blessing of marriage to tens of thousands of couples from among their followers.

[.....] In 1995, by satellite transmission, 360,000 couples were blessed in simultaneous ceremonies held throughout the world.

In 1997, 40 million couples were blessed worldwide, the main ceremony being held in Washington, DC (November 29th, 1997).

On June 13th, 1998 at Madison Square Gardens in New York City, a special Blessing ceremony for new and previously married couples from around the world and from all religious faiths, including Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, Moslems and Hindus was held.

February 7th, 1999 saw another Blessing ceremony unfold in Seoul, Korea, with 360 million couples worldwide participating (including 120 million from Madison Square Garden, June 13th, 1998).

And on February 13th, 2000, a Blessing ceremony took place, the main ceremony being in Olympic Stadium in Seoul, Korea. All pre-blessed couples were invited to gather at locations around the world for a simple ceremony in which Rev. and Mrs. Moon offered, by satellite, the official Blessing prayer and affirmed before heaven and earth that the participating couples are indeed eternal citizens of God's kingdom. Afterwards, to the degree that we each strive to fulfill God's three great blessings, we will find true happiness. And, in this way, God's long-lost ideal will finally be recovered.

If you, as a couple, love God, recognize Rev. and Mrs. Moon as True Parents, and pledge from now on to never commit adultery and to never divorce, you, too, may receive this wonderful Blessing. In the pre-blessing ceremony (which can be held in your own home), you will take a sip of holy wine, through which you are symbolically engrafted into God's True blood lineage. Next, you will have holy water sprinkled on you, representing God's eternal blessing. Then you must answer affirmatively four questions concerning your commitment to live a God-centered life together as an eternal couple. Finally, the officiator of the ceremony will offer a blessing prayer.