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*Loving the True Parents*

**Y**ou can have dreams and visions of True Parents every day and night if you develop a longing. And you develop a longing by loving True Parents. Jesus told his disciples to love each other so anyone could witness that they were his disciples. He knew that their behavior reflected back on him. It is the same thing for us today. If Unificationists are really loving toward one another, they can experience the love of God and True Parents. The more we are able to love each other, the more this communicates the greatness of True Parents. We are the fruit of True Parents' love and longing. But let's reciprocate. We must also take Jesus' words to heart and love True Parents and each other. That is the way people can see that we are True Parents' disciples.

Because of the quality of God's and True Parents' love, we can create a united family and learn to love each other. But what Unificationists experience is just a small reflection of the heart of God and the nature of True Father and True Mother. We have to strive more fully to become the image of True Parents. Then people will observe us and ask, "You have a beautiful spiritual quality about you. Who is your teacher?"

You can build your own private sphere of heart with True Parents and love them deeply. Have your intimate relationship, spiritually—through your dreams, visions, and thoughts. It is normal that children long for their parents and even feel a physical aching when separated from them.

Why not set aside a little time every day just to think about and love True Parents. Why not use the time before you fall asleep, even if it is just a few minutes. Think deeply about the significance of True Parents' position. You may already love certain things about them, but take the challenge to go deeper. Why not fall head over heels in love with them? God is something super-dimensional; He is above all understanding. There are many avenues yet to be explored in your search for the Eternal. And the path of loving True Parents is just one of them.

**G**od never had the chance to fully manifest Himself until the advent of the True Parents. He wanted to incarnate in Adam and Eve; their physical bodies should have been the vehicle for His spirit to manifest. But when they fell and became impure, God lost His opportunity. Therefore from the time of Jesus, God has been working to cleanse mankind's blood lineage of original sin. He had to be sure that the bodies He used to manifest His masculine and feminine nature would be absolutely pure and contain no satanic blood. But that did not happen until the emergence of True Parents..

The world as a whole may as yet be unaware, but the total essence of

God is revealed in a microcosm through the True Parents. And when He looks at them, He sees their hearts, their devotion. Our problem is that we generally notice only their appearance. When we look at them in person or even in pictures, we usually only behold a handsome man and a beautiful woman. Familiar faces. Perhaps even familiar pictures. We say we like them; we proclaim that we love them. But what do we really see when we look at them?

By working on the frontline, we will come to know the truth about the Principle and the identity of True Parents. When we engage in battle with Satan, we more easily comprehend the value of Father. That may be the beginning point of an ever widening circle of love which we generate. And for all the names people have called True Father and all the nations which have falsely accused him and made him suffer, God's righteous indignation will start to well up within us and we will rise up to defend him with all our heart.

Your relationship with True Parents will grow as you come closer to God, and subconsciously you may begin to feel related to them. You will come to the point of not wanting to do anything that would displease them. You would always think about how True Parents would react toward your words and actions. This is the attitude of an educated, maturing, and wise child.

Sometimes when I close my eyes and reflect about True Parents, all of a sudden the vision bursts into the most beautiful spray of spiritual colors—spanning even the most subtle shades of the rainbow. And although I began my thoughts by projecting love to True Parents, it is as if their love comes alive within my life at such moments.

If you are a son or daughter of God and True Parents, you naturally strive to become like them. Like Father, like son. Like Mother, like daughter. Unificationists continuously use the term "True Parents," but what do we really know about them? The term is such an integral part of our vocabulary, we generally don't think deeply about its significance. Yet since we are their children, shouldn't we ponder what it means to mirror the True Parents? Children are the extensions of their parents. Father says we should become "second Reverend Moons."

In order to spiritually resemble them, we should first investigate what they are doing. They have a dual mission: they teach us the ideal, but they also lead us in restoring and saving the world. What should we be doing? The same thing. We should be intensely active to save the world, helping to shoulder this seemingly insurmountable task. Whatever we do is not just for the purpose of restoring the world; the other side is that we learn and manifest that same quality of perfected heart True Parents have.

Father and Mother have been married for many years and God has blessed them with many children. But what kind of life have they led? The eyes of the world see something quite different from the view Unificationists take. In all my years of following True Parents, I have noticed that they do not think about themselves, but serve others instead. They have ministered to scholars, theologians, lawyers, and professionals in any number of fields. We know that their lives have been absolutely public, and they have even sacrificed a peaceful homelife with their children in order to educate and raise their disciples and followers in the ways of God. If True Parents do not think about themselves, can we in good conscience, focus on *ourselves*?

Our love for True Parents should reach such heights that we would do everything possible to follow them. But doing this has great rewards! They will lead us all the way into heaven.

**W**e strive to live with True Parents in heart and although we are not with them physically, we honor them by displaying their pictures. We pray in the name of True Parents and desire to offer everything to God through them. We recognize them as our mediators. Have you ever been so conscious of inviting their presence into your life that you even offered your first spoonful of food to God, the second to Father, and the third to Mother? If you desire to share even your food with them, you will experience a definite response from the spirit world.

There are many things that we can do which proclaim our love for True Parents. This is a way of saying that we desire them to be with us at all times. That is the essence of a Unificationist's life of faith: we desire to learn to live with True Parents day in and day out. If we really did that, we would not quarrel among ourselves. Instead we would all work side by side, doing our best to assist True Parents and remove the entire burden of world restoration from their shoulders. That is one very real way of loving them.

**Y**ou won't be able to love anybody unless and until you love God. And God is manifested through True Parents. How do we find intimacy

and harmony with True Parents and then inherit all their love? How do we adopt their way of thinking, feeling, and acting? The idea may sound a little abstract, nevertheless, it is the key to spiritual survival and growth.

Look at pictures of True Parents many times a day. Eventually, you may feel as though you are standing in front of a mirror and gazing into your own eyes. If you do that for a few minutes you no doubt will start to see how your reflection changes.

After True Parents go to live in spirit world, it will be much easier to appreciate them. The same is true with great artists. Mozart and Beethoven are revered much more now than they were when they lived on earth. And their work is honored by millions. But even now we should do our best to show the True Parents our gratitude for all they do for us and for the sake of this world.

Love is a spiritual process, very much connected to longing and devotion. If you want to cherish True Parents, you first have to develop the ability to love and to perceive the endearment they feel for you.

My sister met Father during his visit to Germany in 1965. Father spoke in Korean to all members who had gathered from around Europe; Mrs. Choi translated his words into English. At that time, my sister did not speak English and did not understand one word of the translation. Yet she was the one with tears streaming down her face. She was in heaven during his whole visit. In fact, I am sure she experienced more "heaven" than any of us because we felt half dead, overcome by tiredness while intensely trying to absorb what Father said. She was not under the strain of trying to comprehend the meaning of what he said. She just enjoyed the vibrations, but I think she understood more than we did; her love for True Parents was so vibrant and real.

It is when we detach ourselves from True Parents that we find ourselves afloat and drifting from God. Do little things that continue to bind you with True Parents. Father has stressed that each Unificationist carry a picture of True Parents at all times. Bring out their picture to remind yourself of your connection to them. Invite them to join you in whatever you do. Show spirit world your acknowledgement of True Parents and your attachment to them.

Although we should give True Parents our utmost respect, we can still be very close to them. We are their children and that title grants us many privileges; it allows us to share tenderness and love. It allows us to care for one another. Remember that despite their strong urging that we work hard and push ourselves to overcome our limitations, they love each of us profoundly and always desire the best for us.

We are the ones who hold the power of either limiting or expanding the level of our relationship with True Parents. Their love for us is true and unconditional. And any difficulty, any doubt or distance we feel is from our side, not theirs. We can do things that will bring us very close to them. And we can also do things that will create an even bigger chasm. The choice is ours.

Some people feel sure that while they can come close to God, it is not possible to establish a harmony with True Parents. I feel that is only a concept. If you prepare yourself before meeting Father, you may not be able to look up at him because you are just overwhelmed by the feelings in your heart, and tears may cloud your eyes. That rather mystical force of his unconditional love is perpetual, but something which we do not always perceive. It is not necessary that your spiritual eyes open so fully that you are constantly blinded by his spiritual light. But he and Mother can easily be the objects of your love—just give it a try!

When we become one with God and fall in love with True Parents, we are guaranteed that satanic forces will be repulsed by that unity. And if those unions are built from true love, Satan will be barred from entering.

As we strive to cooperate with each other, how do we come to the point of being able to unite with True Parents? When we uncover someone's value, we can begin to appreciate him. This is one way that we show how much we love God. According to what we unveil, love may either flourish or wither.

Father is the champion in expressing and manifesting the love of God. And he gives us a simple clue to help us do the same. He tells us that manifesting the love of God is a matter of coming to know Him intimately. He encourages us to first get acquainted with God and then assures us that after that relationship is solidified, we will begin to appreciate, honor, and love each other. But it does not have to stop there: this is exactly the same process that can be used in loving the True Parents.

We have to develop a longing for God and True Parents. The strength or the dynamic of that longing will determine the distance between God, True Parents, and ourselves. If we want to be close to them, we have to develop a very intense desire, just like the yearning we have to be with our lover.

If you live in a different house from the master, how much can you really learn about him? How can you come to love him? You might not even know what he is doing in the main house. You don't even have the chance to eat with him. That is how it was in Moses' time. In Jesus' time, everyone sat around one table. Jesus was the father figure who sat at the head of the table and encouraged his disciples to participate in the breaking of bread. He and his disciples prayed together and became close, sharing their hearts through their conversation. They watched their parent, Jesus, and learned from him. And they ultimately copied him. At Moses' time, people did not have that opportunity. They just got orders which they were expected to carry out. But in the Christian era, the children knew what the father was doing.

What is the difference in this time of attendance? We symbolically live together with the Messiah and his bride—how close can you get? In the Christian era, the disciples did not get any closer than sitting at the table with one another. That "family" was much more symbolic. But as the Bible indicates, when the bridegroom comes to meet his bride, people will unite and become one with him. The end result is that as their children, we are not confined to sitting around a table anymore. We can be united by living together, serving one another, and especially *loving* one another. And that circle of love starts through our adoration and love of True Parents.

If you want to dream more about True Parents, long for them. You dream about a person you are close to. If you develop a yearning to be with a person, then he is always near you spiritually, even as you sleep. If you have a conversation with a person during the day, it might continue even as you dream. By the law of attraction, you are able to draw Father and Mother near you, and they will manifest in your dreams.

The amount of longing that you have for a loved one is the power that draws that person into your vision and within your very soul. You want to be near this person whether it is day or night. Develop this kind of adulation for True Parents. Think about them often, especially just before you fall

asleep. If your last thought and feeling is projected toward them and then you visualize them, your spirit will continue to communicate with them.

This will not happen instantaneously. Love develops over time. But through the duration, you will come closer to them if you practice loving them.

Since we cannot be with True Parents at all times, one way to come closer to them is to view the films which have been made about them, and read the words of Father's speeches in which he conveys his heart so beautifully.

It is refreshing to hear people glorify God and True Parents. It uplifts our hearts and brings us closer to them. The thousands of ministers who attended the rallies for religious freedom honored Father. Black and white alike just poured out their hearts in praise of him. The time will come when we Unificationists will be ashamed because other people recognized Father for who he really is; they praised and exalted him, while we just stood by. Afraid to get involved. Afraid to reflect True Parents. Afraid to love them. That will be the time we will realize and repent about the fact that we did not do enough.

We should begin and finish our days by projecting loving thoughts toward True Parents. We *must* include them in our lives. Furthermore, we must come to develop appreciation for each other because everyone is a child of God. Parents are elated when their children are happy. When national leaders of our movement meet with True Parents, I know for sure that Father's first thought is how the members are, not the leaders. True Parents are our parents and want to know that *everybody* is taken care of.

Our power to do things stems from the love of both God and True Parents. Unless we offer all things to them, blessing cannot come to our work. But when we relate our work, our feelings, and even our fears to God through True Parents, we will receive great benefits. That is the circle of the give and take of love.

If we are around True Parents for an entire day we can experience first-hand that they are our parents and we are their sons and daughters. You will begin to understand the proper way to act once you develop an intimate relationship with God. You will know that love between you and True Parents should flow simply and freely.



It is easy to live our lives on a more superficial and external level, but if we were just more conscious of inviting True Parents through even a small feeling or thought, our mutual feelings of love could be shared much more easily and freely.

Our fantasy creates and re-creates. We can easily reproduce or remember something we have experienced in the past. We can construct new things on the basis of what we have learned previously; we each have such a reservoir.

We can easily envision Father and Mother—that they are with us, that we are with them. The essentials are there. The building blocks to construct anything in our fantasy exist within our inner vision. Therefore, we should expand our experiences with God and True Parents, our interpersonal relationships, and our communion with all entities in the universe. All of them together make up our cognition, which we will eventually bring with us into spirit world.

Each one of us has unique abilities and talents. Each one of us has a different perception and we have been moved by True Parents in a distinctive way. True Parents have become so real to some people that they appear spiritually. Yet within each one of us is that inalienable right and possibility to feel them and invite them to participate in our every activity.

Unificationists use the term, "True Parents" and offer prayers through their name. Eventually, Unificationists receive the Blessing from God through True Parents. But how close do we come to them? Does each of us have such a strong longing for True Parents that we have a hard time to fall asleep because we cannot help but cry for them? Some Unificationists work fervently all day long but don't think about True Parents. Why? What is different about those who just keep busy and those who enthusiastically welcome True Parents to join them in their daily activities?

The Bible reveals a story about two women who were devoted to Jesus. One we know as Martha, and the other was called Mary Magdalene. One worked very hard in the kitchen to prepare Jesus' meals. The other sat on the ground in front of Jesus' feet and gazed up at him; some may have thought her behavior bold or impertinent. The two women were quite different from one another. Martha really wanted to do something for Jesus. She worked hard to cook him a good meal. But she complained that Mary didn't give her any help. She felt that if they could have worked together, they could

have cut in half the time necessary to make the meal. Yet what did Jesus say of Mary? Jesus inferred that Mary had chosen the better road. Martha could have thrown down all her pots and pans and said, "The heck with cooking your supper. I want to sit at your feet, too!" How would Jesus have responded? I am sure he would have also embraced her. That is the Messiah's love.

In 1971 I was in Korea with True Parents. A number of us were about to leave the training center with Father when a Japanese girl approached True Parents. She was crying and crying. I wondered what was wrong. Someone translated the conversation she had with Father and I learned that she had come from Japan on her own. She had such a deep longing to see Father that she traveled to Korea by ship and had been searching for him several days already. Father reprimanded her for doing that without permission, but on the other hand, I could see that he was really touched by her love and adoration. Her longing for him was so great, she couldn't concentrate on her mission without seeing him. The feeling of love just overwhelmed her.

Although we should be careful how we manifest it, that is the kind of longing and love each of us should have for True Parents. When we cherish them, we will be spiritually embraced in return.

**B**y being active and taking part of the load from Father's shoulders, we will come closer to True Parents and to each other through sharing our work together. We come to better understand True Parents and what challenges and tasks they face. That is the time we will be able to take their position. The more we do that, the more we will intuitively perceive the depth of their loyalty and dedication to God. Yet at the same time, we will share the pain they feel because mankind is still held by Satan. And if we are really attuned, we can be closer to them through prayer, visions, and dreams.

**T**he only way to reach perfection and to come to God is to become focused on True Parents. The key to perceiving the love of God is to know True Parents. We may have been a Unificationist for many years yet still not know True Parents. They could still seem abstract to us even though we work for them every day. Or do we? Have we instead begun to work more for ourselves? Of course in one very real sense we simultaneously work for God, True Parents, and ourselves, because we are helping fulfill the will of God, and at the same time, trying to reach perfection.

Do you have the conviction that you are willing to die for a friend of yours? Is the relationship you have to Father and Mother just as tangible? You know and feel that Father is a great man, but is he still a bit mystical and far away? You can easily say that you love True Parents because you work for them and you have committed your life to God, but how much do you really know and try to inherit the heart of True Parents?

How can we really love one another if we don't first thread that love through the fabric of True Parents' tapestry of love? God and True Parents are the "glue" that binds all our relationships. And if it were not for their ability to unite us, we would understandably find it much harder to love one another.

It is not necessary to go into certain realms of the subconscious to experience True Parents. All you have to do is ask for the spirit of True Parents to be with you—long for them, relate to them. You don't necessarily have to pray a formal prayer. Talk to them. Feel with them. It is not imperative to use words. You can do this as you drive, cook—whatever. Don't limit yourself to a certain concept of loving True Parents.

Sometimes it takes small miracles such as visions and spiritual manifestations for a person to accept the Principle. This was especially true many years ago. Some people might not have continued their life of faith if they had not personally experienced spiritual phenomena. But it is not really necessary now. Enacting the truth is a manifestation of the presence of God. Nevertheless, it is only natural that all Unificationists would like to have this feeling of nearness to God and have dreams and visions of True Parents. But the easiest and quickest way to have those experiences is to cultivate a deep longing for both God and True Parents.

In order to activate spirit world, we have to display the greatest love for God and True Parents. A spirit in the highest realms of the spirit world who sees we have a tremendous love for God and True Parents, wants to participate in our lives because he also wants to exhibit his love for them. And the spiritual being knows he will be elevated through cooperating with us.

The secret to achieving a spiritual mobilization is to love God and True Parents. God's response of love is the most wonderful gift for humanity; it comes through True Parents. If we learn to love True Parents, we learn to love God.

Without the True Parents, the love of God could not be felt to the highest degree. We claim that the Messiah is the mediator between God and man, which means that he intercedes and brings love to both of them. He transmits or transfers the love of God and then offers the love of mankind back to Him.

Recognize the love of God brought by True Parents. True Parents are the tangible manifestation of the invisible God. Anyone who connects with them inherits everything they have. People can accumulate property and possessions, but it is most important to inherit the love of God. Unless we love God, we won't be able to love anyone else—neighbors, brothers, sisters. And God reveals Himself and His love through the True Parents.

How can we come closer to True Parents in thought and feeling? If loving the True Parents is a key to spiritual growth, we should want to know how we can come closer to them and understand them better. How can we each develop a longing for them? If we have no love for a person, we do not long for him.

We each have such diverse pasts. Each of us was on our own and could do as we pleased. But at one point we found ourselves in the Unification movement. All races, all languages—and yet True Parents tell us to love each other. And by some formula and miracle, it works!

When we live and work with one another day after day, month after month, we become accustomed to each other—our strong points, our weaknesses, our habits. We even come to love one another. But how do we take the next step and project our love to True Parents? Can we spiritually compensate for the physical absence of True Parents? How can we become so united in love and heart with True Parents that they become part of our lives, not just our feelings and thoughts? We must show others by our example which will even give them cause to develop love for God and True Parents. And that is the core of our life of faith. As long as we use theories and systems but do not practice love, others may not be able to believe us. Yet once we manifest what we preach, people will draw close to us; they will find it difficult to withstand the intensity of spiritual heat that emanates from our love. It is the same with us; can we resist the kind of love True Parents shower upon us?

What are other ways to come closer to True Parents? Ask this question in your prayer. Reassure God and spirit world that you have already committed your life and that you have a great longing to be close to True Parents, but that you want to know how you can increase and solidify your relationship with them.

The early Christians who were thrown in front of lions and cut to pieces by gladiators must have had such conviction, such love for Jesus. How did they attain it? How did they get the strength to walk in there, facing certain death? Eventually, we will each be tested. God wants to know the depth of our commitment to Him and True Parents. By loving True Parents with all our heart, we will surely pass our test.

It is normal for children to live in the same house with their parents. Ideally, we should do this with True Father and True Mother, but it is physically impossible. Living life outside their house is not always easy. We are often filled with misgivings and self-doubts. We sometimes listen to Satan's voice when he tries to win back our loyalty. He promises to take care of us and makes us question whether True Parents really love us. Yet if we actually lived with True Parents, we would never doubt their love, nor would we have feelings of guilt. Instead we would be exposed to divinity at all times. Self-chastisement simply has no place in that world.

In one very real sense, our lifestyle now is unnatural. We are the children of True Parents; although we should live together with them, here we sit trying to find the method to love them. We call ourselves the children of God and True Parents, yet we ask questions the people of Moses' time probably asked. We even still wonder about the nature of sin.

There is a certain feeling of reverence and respect that wells up within us whenever we are in the presence of True Parents. If you have to report to Father, your feeling of anxiety may even border on fear of judgment. Yet you are so drawn to True Parents that any consequence you might face doesn't really matter. Although it is not necessary to feel fear when you go before True Parents, if you have not seen Father for a very long time, you may feel a rather natural distance at first and even forget that you are his child.

The concept of parent-child relationship is not well understood by many societies. If we would have had correct relationships in our own families, we would more easily be able to relate to our True Parents today. But most families are so disrupted; there is little or no respect and that essential quality

is often replaced with resentment and animosity. In numerous families, there is but a shred of ideal left. And there is a tremendous gap between the low standard behavior we find in society, with the perfection of heart exhibited by True Parents.

How is it possible to love True Father or True Mother if you never before experienced a healthy parent/child relationship in your own home? Maybe your father was a drunkard and abused your mother. Maybe you were abused. That could cause you to bear resentment against *any* father figure. Or perhaps your father was a domineering tyrant. How can you come to trust a father figure again? It is only through the pure and unconditional parental love of God and True Parents.

Christians often talk about their Lord. We call the spiritual leader of our church "Father" and his wife "Mother." Such intimate terms. But when a person says, "My Lord," he puts himself in the position of a servant. Yet we are called children of the True Parents and are eligible to live with them.

Father is *your* father; you can communicate with him spiritually anytime. You can even write to True Parents. Especially through the Blessing they have become our parents. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to communicate our love to True Parents. Yet it is impossible to write a "lord,"—especially an invisible one.

Why not relate the experiences you have had with True Parents to others? You may have seen Father and Mother in person, but some people have never seen them. Some may *never* see them in person, yet they also want to learn more about True Parents in order to solidify their relationship of love to them. They may be looking for a way to learn the experiences of others. Why not share yours!

If you want to love and support someone, you have to put yourself aside and focus on that person. It is no different in loving True Parents. If you do everything possible to come close to them and really nurture your love for them, then you will desire to offer them everything you are and have. That is the answer. You learn to love them; your longing develops at the same time. Longing has magnetic power to draw you closer to them. Your spirit rises up to greet them and you meet in the realm of heart.

Recall the first experience of love that you felt for God and True Parents. Write it down. In fact, write down *every* experience—whether it was

in person, a dream, or a vision. And on the days you find yourself tired and downhearted, read over these accounts of your experiences. They will still be as real as the day they happened and can revive your spirit.

When I first came to know about God and True Parents, I felt spiritual dynamite beneath me. I was so zealous about sharing my newfound love that I wanted to turn the whole world upside down overnight. This is the kind of feeling and spirit you can also have. Recall this first moment of love.

Sometimes we worry too much. And we are too cautious when thinking about True Parents. We look at them with too much awe; we don't have to be overly stiff or formal, but rather should be as natural in loving them as they are in loving us. If you embrace a person with spiritual love and warmth, he cannot help but feel at home. It is the same with True Parents. I am sure you feel cared for and free in the spiritual arms of True Parents, but I know they will feel just as at "home" in *your* spiritual arms of love.