

**True Love
Divine Principle
Study Program**

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Introduction

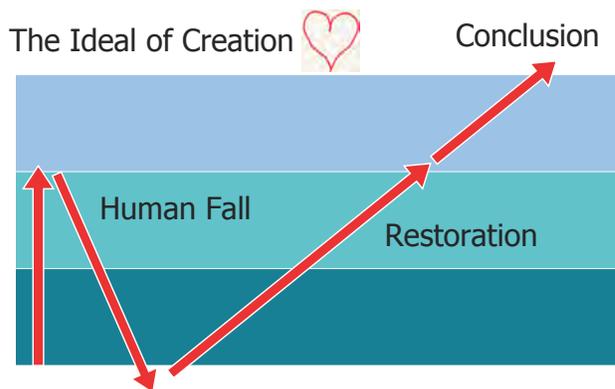
Welcome! This is the **True Love Divine Principle** study program.

Before getting started – let’s take a few minutes to get to know one another.

As others introduce themselves, consider writing notes in the margin.

*Say your name,
Tell where you are from,
List a few of your favorite things to do,
Explain why you chose to participate in this program.*

The **True Love Divine Principle** study program is based on the Divine Principle, which is one of the primary texts of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Throughout this program we will be sharing the key points that are found in the Divine Principle. In the concluding chapter we will share more about its origin.



This study program includes an introduction, which is this session, followed by four chapters that cover four major topics:

Chapter 1: The Ideal of Creation, Chapter 2: The Human Fall, Chapter 3: Human History and Our Path of Restoration, and Chapter 4: Conclusion.

Chapter 1, The Ideal of Creation, is going to explain how the world could be, or was meant to be, if everyone lived up to their potential to be good, true, and beautiful.

To be a good doctor, to heal someone’s body, you need to first know the ideal of the body, how the body is supposed to function when it’s healthy.

To be a good mechanic, to know how to fix someone’s car, you need to first know the ideal of the car, or how the car runs when all the parts are working properly.

In the same way, if we want to move this world and our lives closer to the ideal that we desire, we need to know what that ideal is. Without being clear on this point, it is going to be very difficult to move forward in our efforts to make our lives and this world better. The purpose and goal of Chapter 1 is to make clear what the ideal of creation is.



The questions that will be discussed in Chapter 1 include: Why are we here? Where does the Ideal of Creation come from? Is there a God? What role does love play in the ideal? And is the ideal something that will end with our death, or is there a spiritual life in which it will continue?

The second chapter, The Human Fall, explains how the real world and our life experiences came to be so far from the ideal that we desire. As we just mentioned, one problem is that we don't know what the ideal is. But the challenge we face is much more than just our lack of understanding. Humanity was severely damaged. We have major problems that are blocking us, that are working against us, keeping us from achieving the ideal.

In the session on the Human Fall we will answer several critical questions such as: How was the Ideal of Creation lost? Where did evil come from? If there is a God and God is good, how could evil even be possible? And why has life, throughout the course of human history, been filled with so much suffering and unhappiness?

Once these two points are clarified - the ideal that we are seeking and how that ideal was lost - we can begin to talk about the process by which the ideal is to be restored. That's the purpose of Chapter 3, Human History and Our Path of Restoration. The chapter on Restoration is an exciting one, because it will offer more than just ideas and theories; it will include an overview of human history that will demonstrate that there really is a process by which humanity is being restored, a process by which our lives can be changed for the better.

Finally, in the fourth chapter, Conclusion, we will take the study of history all the way up to our present time. In doing so, we are going to discover good news. We are going to learn that the age in which we are now living is one of the best times ever to be alive. It is a time when the ideal that we seek, in which all people can live in harmony, can become more than a dream; it can become something real that we experience in our daily lives.

That is a summary of the four chapters to come. Now, before concluding this Introduction, let's take another look at the title of our seminar, "The True Love Divine Principle Seminar." It starts with the words "true love." So far we have talked about some of the principles that will be covered in this study program, but nothing has been said about true love. What is true love? And what role does it play in the Ideal of Creation, the Human Fall, in Restoration, and in our lives today?

The term "true love" for most people does not carry much weight. It's one of those phrases that we hear over and over again - to the point that it has almost no meaning. But true love is absolutely critical if we want to be happy and realize a better world. It is important for the simple reason that it is the source of our greatest happiness.

What is true love? Rev. and Mrs. Moon, whose lives and teachings are the inspiration behind this seminar, define true love as "*Living for the Sake of Others.*"

Take a moment to think about that definition, "*living for the sake of others.*" Likely, there is a part of us that is thinking ...

"Does my greatest happiness really come from living for the sake of others? That's not what's going through my mind each day. In fact, I'm the happiest when my desires are fulfilled, when I get what I want and when things go my way. Maybe a better definition for true love would be 'Living for the sake of me!'"

Which should it be? One voice inside of us says, "*You will be happy when you help others. After all, doesn't the golden rule teach us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves?*" But there is another inner voice that says, "*You will be happy when you take care of yourself. You have to make yourself happy, because if you don't, no one else will.*"

We were not created to live with this struggle, with these conflicting minds inside of us. We will talk more about this struggle and where it came from in the chapter on the Human Fall.

To help us better understand true love, let's take a closer look at our desire to be happy. The desire to be happy is shared by all people – it doesn't matter what culture or religion you belong to, whether you are a man or a woman, young or old, rich or poor. Everyone wants to be happy. We may find it in different ways, but we all want to be happy.

Discuss: Take a moment to remember one or two of your best memories of being happy.

We all have special moments of happiness that we cherish, that we hold in our hearts. For some it might be an experience they had as a child when their parents' love embraced them and it made them feel secure and valued. For others it might be the day they first fell in love, or the day of their marriage, or the day their first child was born, or it might have been a day in which they experienced nature in a special way, or a day in which they experienced some kind of spiritual awakening.

Beyond these special memories there is the reality of our daily lives. If we were asked, *"What kind of happiness keeps you going from day to day? What keeps you motivated?"*

Some might answer, *"It's the people I care about, my family and my close friends. I am happy when I am with them, hanging out with them, eating with them, talking with them ... doing things together with them."*

Others might say, *"My work makes me happy. I enjoy the company of my co-workers. When I wake up in the morning, I look forward to doing what I do."*

Someone else might say that being successful is what makes them happy, to achieve a goal, something for which they can be acknowledged, and in which they can take pride. It could be as simple as fixing a broken sink, or producing a work of art, or being chosen for a promotion, or creating a successful business.

Another source of daily happiness for many is found in financial security, having enough money, enough so they don't have to worry about how they will survive, as well as enough to have the things they like.

And there are those for whom good health is at the top of the list. This is especially true for those who have experienced a serious illness.



There are countless ways by which people find happiness in their day-to-day lives; through food, travel, sports, nature, and all kinds of entertainment, from video games, to reading books, to listening to music – and the list could go on and on.

At the beginning of this Introduction, when we first introduced ourselves to one another, we shared some of the things that we enjoy doing. These are the ways by which we find some degree of happiness in our daily lives. So, with that in mind ... on a scale of 1-10, how's it going for each of us?

When Americans are asked that question, “*On a scale of 1-10, how happy are you?*” the average response is about 7.¹

For most of us, there are areas in which things are going well, there are areas in which things are not so bad and not so good, and there are areas in which

1. www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/north/2016/02/09/survey-says-happiness-grows-somerville/gRVG7rbqhNGFki8OcrSmLI/story.html.

things are not good at all. For example, we may be feeling excited about a trip we've planned, but at the same time our job may not be so stimulating, and when it comes to our health we might be suffering from a terrible headache which ruins everything.

This kind of daily pursuit of happiness is, for the most part, on the surface. It does not go so deep within us and therefore can easily come and easily go. For example, if our trip gets cancelled, if we have a fight with our spouse, if our headache gets worse, or if we just have a bad hair day - any one of these can put us into a bad mood. By the same token, if we get a bonus at work, if the person we are attracted to gives us a smile and greets us, or if we are given a compliment - our mood can change and suddenly we feel great.

Although we may not like to admit it, this surface type of happiness is the level of happiness that we are most involved with on a day-to-day basis. But if we look a little deeper into our hearts, we may find that we are not as happy as we would like to think we are. What does it mean to go deeper into our hearts? To do this we need to step back, step away from the usual flow of life and from what is typically going on in our heads.



One way to step away from the usual flow of life is to participate in a program like this one.

In fact, here is an exercise to help each of us look a little deeper into ourselves. Let's give it a try.

Do you know the Michael Jackson song "Man in the Mirror"?

I'm starting with the man in the mirror

(Ooh!)

I'm asking him to change his ways

(Change his ways, ooh!)

*And no message could have been any clearer
If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and
then make that ... change!*

This is what we each need to do. Imagine you are in front of a mirror, looking at your reflection.

Got that? Are you there, looking at yourself?

Now, ask yourself this question: *“Am I happy with myself?”* And don’t ask it superficially. Sincerely ask, *“Am I truly happy with who I am? Am I happy with this person I am looking at in the mirror?”*

To answer that question properly we each need to take some time to reflect. But that is something we can do later – when we are alone. The point that we need to understand now, at this moment, is how important that question is – especially if we truly want to be happy.

True happiness is only possible when we are happy with ourselves. Without that, the happiness that we do experience will always be shallow, on the surface, because as soon as we look “in the mirror” and the voice we hear tells us, “I don’t like who I am” – it’s going to be hard to be happy.

To continue with our effort to look deeper into ourselves, instead of trying to come up with the answer to the question, *“Am I happy with myself?”* put that aside and ask yourself another question. Ask yourself, *“Exactly what part of me is it that is going to answer this question, that is going to evaluate me and decide whether or not I am happy with myself?”*

The answer to that question is **“my conscience.”** Our conscience is the part of us that can step away from ourselves, look in the mirror, and evaluate who we are and how we live our lives. Our conscience is something very special. It will play a crucial role in our path to happiness.

The point of this exercise is that we become more aware of our conscience, more aware that there is a part of us, inside of us, that has the ability to evaluate us. If we can catch an awareness of that, then we have taken an important step, going deeper into ourselves. Congratulations!

But not everyone sees the conscience in a good way. Some see their conscience as something like a bully, threatening them into submission, like the parent who tells their children, *“You better eat everything on your plate. If you don’t, the starving children of the world are going to accuse you!”*

This has been the great misconception – that our conscience is the voice of judgment and accusation. Because people have believed this, they have made efforts to avoid their conscience, to keep it silent, in the belief that a happy life can be had without it. But in reality, the opposite is true. Our conscience is an amazing thing. It wants the best for each of us. And if we allow it, it is able to offer an honest opinion about our life and who we really are.

This naturally brings us to the next step – which requires another question. *“By what standard does my conscience evaluate me?”* And yes, it’s true, our conscience evaluates us and tries to guide us based on a particular standard. Before it will give us permission to be happy with ourselves, there are certain conditions and expectations that it wants us to fulfill.

What are those conditions and expectations? To begin with, our conscience is not so concerned with how we happen to feel in any given moment – whether we are sad or happy or struggling or at peace. What it cares about is whether or not our life has meaning and value. Because as long as we are pursuing a meaningful life, it knows that even if we go through some difficult times of sadness and struggle, in the end we are going to be happy with ourselves. And that is real happiness.

But our conscience is not happy with just any meaning or value. It wants the meaning and value of our life to be good, to be true, and to be beautiful. And when that happens, our conscience will say to us, *“You know what? I like you! I like you a lot, and I give you permission to be happy with yourself!”* This is when a person feels true happiness. This is when we can look in the mirror and say, *“I feel good about who I am.”*

This brings us to the final step in this exercise, and the final question: *“What is it that my conscience considers to be good, true, and beautiful?”*

The answer to this question is going to bring us full circle. This is because, what we are going to discover is that everyone’s conscience is guided by the

definition of true love, the definition we quoted earlier from Rev. Moon which is *“to live for the sake of others.”*

The overriding principle that makes something good, true, and beautiful is when it is for the sake of someone besides ourselves. It is when we sincerely care for the well-being and happiness of the other. The other could be our friend, our spouse, our child, our parents, or our community and nation. It could be the world. To put it another way, it is when we are motivated not just to benefit ourselves but to increase the greater good and the happiness of others. That is what it means to be good, true, and beautiful.

In case you are skeptical, here are a few examples that demonstrate this. Consider this series of events:



You're in Las Vegas staying at a casino for your birthday. Your first night you have a vivid dream, and in the dream the voice of God says to you, *“For your birthday tomorrow I am going to give you two visions.”* The next morning you wake up with a sense of excitement. Sure enough, just as you are getting dressed you have your first vision. In it you see slot machines and you hear the same voice from your dream say, *“If you leave your room now, take the first elevator down to the casino, and play the maximum bet of \$10 in the first slot machine that you come to, you will win the grand prize of 10 million dollars.”* Without hesitation, your heart pounding, you grab \$10, run out the door to the elevator and push the down button.

As you're waiting with excitement, you can't help but notice a young man sitting on the floor next to the elevator. He has an empty wine bottle in his hand and a glazed, depressed look in his eyes. In that moment you have your second vision. In this vision you see this young man jumping off the roof and the voice speaks to you again, "*This person sitting in front of you is going to take the next elevator going up, and he is going to kill himself by jumping off the roof. But if you take the elevator with him and during the ride tell him that, no matter how bad life may seem, he is loved, he will change his mind and go on to live a good and happy life.*" As the vision ends, the elevator door opens, going down.

Suddenly time seems to stop, and you must decide - to either go for the money or stay and save this person's life. Which would you choose?

Our conscience will guide us to save his life.

Think about that. Winning 10 million dollars could end your lifelong struggle with finances. You could finally get out of debt, finish your education, start that business you dreamed about, and do much, much more. But because of true love, we are willing to sacrifice all of that to save a person we don't even know.

We could ask the question, "Is there any circumstance in which it would be okay to go for the money?" And the answer is yes, as long as our conscience is okay with it. For example, if you were absolutely confident that you could use that money to save the lives of one hundred people, or a thousand people, or even ten thousand people, your conscience would be able to accept your sacrifice of that one person.

So it's true, our conscience really is guided by true love.

Or how about this?

A young man, George, is introduced to video games. The games are stimulating, exciting, challenging, and even thrilling. George plays them more and more. Eventually he becomes addicted to video games - playing them for hours and hours. If you ask George what makes him happy - he will answer, "Playing video games!" But what does his conscience have to say about it? If he were willing to listen, his conscience would not be so happy with him. Why is that?

The conscience can approve of playing video games if that activity enabled George to be of greater benefit to others. Such as, if they provided George with

a means to relax, remove stress, and rejuvenate himself, enabling him to relate with others better. Or his conscience would be okay if playing video games were a means by which he bonded more deeply with the important people in his life.

But if George is being controlled by his need to play video games, and if this is causing him to neglect his health and do harm to those close to him, such as his wife, his children, his friends, and his future career, and if it is depriving him of the nourishment that only exercise and the outdoors can provide him, then his conscience will tell him, *“Hey, George! This is not good, this is not true, and this is not beautiful!”*

The same principle applies on all levels. For a nation to seek to make itself better, with complete disregard for the world, would go against the conscience of its people. Such activity would make the citizens feel bad about their nation. Does this mean a nation cannot seek to better itself? Of course not. To want to improve and strengthen one’s nation, to make one’s nation better and greater, would be good, if the line of thinking were – *“by becoming a stronger and better nation, we will be able to contribute more to the creation of a good world.”* That kind of national self-improvement would be good, and true, and beautiful.

This is a basic principle that all people can recognize.

One of the most famous quotes in American history came from John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.”

And Albert Einstein once said, “Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”

Consider, if there is a group of eight people, and seven of them are thinking, *“How can I take advantage of this group of people in order to improve my personal situation?”* and one is thinking, *“What can I do to contribute something positive to this group?”* Which of them does our conscience tell us is most good, true, and beautiful?

How about when you’ve eaten your piece of cake, and there is just one piece left that belongs to your sister. But you really want it. Then what happens? In your mind you make up an excuse, a justification for eating the cake. Something like, “She’s overweight. I will be doing her a favor if I eat it.” Even though you know it is not true, you are justifying eating the cake by claiming it is for the

benefit of your sister. In other words, you already know what your conscience is demanding, that you live for the sake of others. And that is why you try to trick it by making it look as though what you are doing is for the sake of your sister.



Or what if we were observing a young man, the pastor of a church, helping and serving others. We would think he is good, true, and beautiful. But what if we could see into his mind and we discovered the following thoughts, *"I don't really want to help these people, but everyone is watching me, which makes this a good opportunity for me to gain their admiration and put myself in a better position to impose my authority and my will over them."* Instead of thinking he is good, we would be repulsed by his self-centeredness.

We are all clearly guided by a conscience that has a connection to true love. And yet there is a part of us that does not understand love. The logic of our shallow self, which thinks we can make ourselves happy by gaining more of what we want, just doesn't work when it comes to love. The logic of love is different. The more we try to take love for ourselves, the less love and the less happiness we will have. The key to finding happiness through love is to become a person who finds happiness in the happiness of others.

This is why Jesus taught, *"If you seek to gain your life [the shallow type of happiness] you will lose it [your deeper self, your conscience, will be unhappy], but if you are willing to lose your life [live for the sake of others] you will gain your life [your conscience will be happy with you]."* (Luke 17:33)

We find the same message in an old Chinese fable.

There was a man who was shown heaven and hell. They were exactly the same. Each had a banquet table covered with the best foods, and in each place people were free to eat whatever they desired.

But there was an unusual requirement. In both places people were only allowed to eat the food with very long chopsticks. In hell, everyone was miserable,

because they were desperately trying to grab the food they wanted for themselves, but because their chopsticks were so long they had no way to get it into their mouths. In heaven, it was the same, except that people there were using their chopsticks to feed their loved ones the foods they knew they would enjoy. It was a place of great happiness.

And it's not just Bible passages or Chinese fables, this perspective is backed up by scientific research. Dr. Robert Waldinger, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, reports that a Harvard study lasting more than 75 years - the longest study ever - reveals that the most important factor in determining our happiness is the degree to which we have good relationships.

Dr. Michael Norton, a professor at the Harvard Business School, gave a TED talk on how money can buy happiness.² He was part of a study that gave people money - half were told to spend it on themselves, and half were told to spend it on someone else. At the end of the study those who spent their money on others were measurably happier than those who spent it on themselves.

There can be no doubt that the human conscience - the part of us that is responsible for guiding us to live a life that is good, true, and beautiful - is guiding us to live for the sake of others. And the reason our conscience is guiding us to live for others is because behind our conscience is the force of true love.



In summary, we have two selves. One is our shallower self, that seeks for happiness on a day-to-day, moment-by-moment basis. The other is our deeper self, our conscience, that wants us to experience a meaningful life that is good, true, and beautiful, a life that makes us happy with ourselves, a happiness that can only come from the practice of true love, of living for the sake of others.

In a healthy world, what we call the Ideal of Creation, these two selves would exist in harmony. But in the real world in which we live today - these two selves are in a state of conflict. Our shallow self dominates us, and fearing what our

2. Michael Norton, Elizabeth Dunn, "How Money Actually Buys Happiness," Harvard Business Review, 6/28/2013.

true conscience will say, it silences our conscience and replaces it with a fake conscience that is warped and easily bent to whatever it is we desire.

The purpose of this seminar is to bring good news. We do not need to be afraid of our conscience. If our conscience is guided by true love, it will always have our best interests in mind. The time has come for our conscience to be re-awakened and for our two selves, our shallow-thinking emotional self that moves us through our daily lives and our deeper inner self, to work together in harmony. When this happens, our lives and our world are going to become a whole lot better.

In the next session, Chapter 1, we are going to reveal a clear understanding of the Ideal of Creation, the origin of true love, and where it is that true love and our conscience are trying to lead us.

Discuss: Can you recall an experience in which you felt a conflict within yourself, between your day-to-day interests and your deeper desire for meaning and value?

Chapter 1

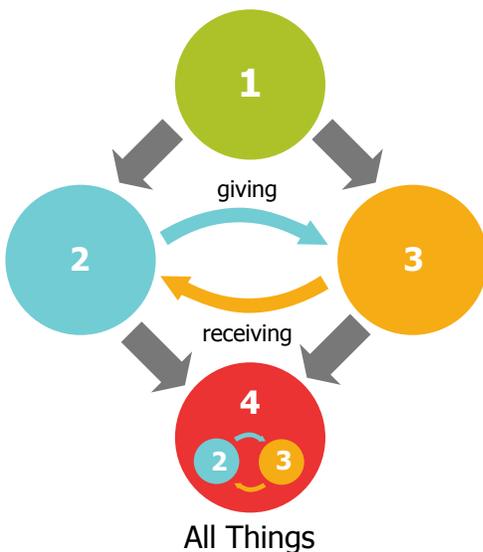
The Ideal of Creation

In the previous session, we learned that every person has a conscience, and behind each conscience is the force of true love. In this session we are going to look for the origin of true love, and we are going to clarify the goal to which true love is trying to take us. That goal is what the Divine Principle calls the Ideal of Creation.

We are going to discover: first, that true love comes from God and is the core of God's being; second, that true love is what is needed in order for us to fulfill the purpose of our lives; third, that true love requires our participation; and fourth, that true love is not going to end with our physical death, but will continue on in our spiritual life.

PART 1: THE FOUR POSITION FOUNDATION

Before we go any further, we are going to introduce a model for creation that will help us explain the key principles of this study program. This model is called the **Four Position Foundation**.

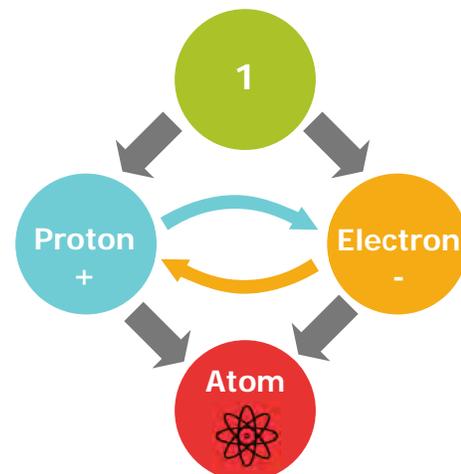


In the fourth position, on the bottom, is every substantial thing that exists. It could be anything: a rock, a flower, a speck of dust, a planet, or a human being. Whatever we choose, if we look at the inner content of that thing – we will discover that there are dual components that are engaged in a relationship. These dual components take positions 2 and 3. It is the relationship between these components, what we describe as “giving and receiving action,” that enables each and every substantial thing in the universe to exist.

For example, how is an atom able to exist? Let’s look at the simplest atom, hydrogen. Inside a hydrogen atom there are two components, a positive particle, the proton, and a negative particle, the electron. These two are united by the giving and receiving action that goes on between them. The positive particle takes the center position, and the negative particle moves around it. It is this relationship between the two that makes it possible for the hydrogen atom to exist.

This is a universal truth. Everything that exists, exists because of the relationship that is going on between its inner components.

If we look at an individual person, every person exists because of the giving and receiving action that goes on between their mind and their body. A marriage would not exist without the giving and receiving that

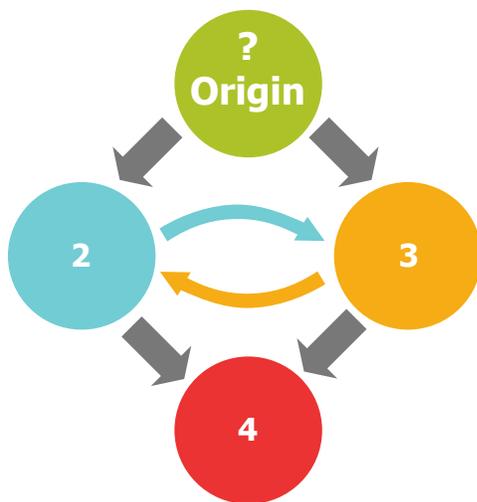


goes on between a husband and wife. A child would not exist without the giving and receiving that took place when the sperm from the father and egg from the mother came together inside the mother's womb.

There are an infinite number of examples of this – simply because this is how everything is able to exist. From particles to atoms, to molecules and plants, to animals and to the cosmos, including people, everything exists because within it there are components that were designed to come together in a paired relationship of giving and receiving action.

And this includes social institutions. A school could not exist if the teachers and students did not have a relationship, a nation would not exist if the government and its people did not have a relationship, and a business would not exist if there were no relationship between the owners or managers and the employees.

But, so far, we have described only the second, third, and fourth positions. What is the first position in the Four Position Foundation?



The dual components that come together must have an origin; they did not create themselves. They had to come from somewhere or from something. Also, their ability to interact and engage in a relationship with each other – this did not come from them; it came from something that existed before them. What, then, is the origin of all things and what is the origin of the force that brings them together?

We call the origin of all things the Original Being.

Thankfully, science gives us a helping hand on this topic. Science now teaches us that time, space, and the universe in which all things exist have not always been here. They all had a point of origin, a beginning point, what is commonly called the Big Bang.

The critical question is, What is the nature of the origin of our universe? What is it that got things going? What is it that initiated that Big Bang?

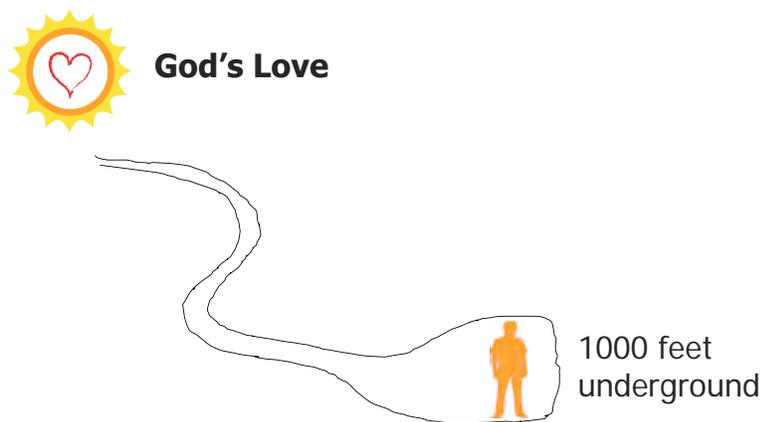
According to the Divine Principle, the Original Being is God and the force that motivated the beginning of creation was true love.

PART 2: THE ORIGINAL BEING IS GOD, AND GOD IS A GOD OF TRUE LOVE

For some, as soon as the word “God” is mentioned, they begin to struggle. One reason for this is that people have a tendency to associate God with religion, and some already have a particular religion to which they are committed. Others have had bad experiences with religion and want nothing to do with it.

But this study program is not about religion; it is about true love and the role that true love plays in our lives.

There are two main reasons that people have a hard time when the discussion turns to God. First, some have picked up unhealthy concepts about God in the course of their lives. For example, that God is a judge on a throne, sending some people to heaven and casting others into damnation and eternal fire.



But for most, the real reason there is a problem when it comes to God is that they have never experienced God. In fact, many who believe in God have never had an actual direct experience with God. They believe in God simply because they have faith that God exists.

If you are struggling with the idea that God exists, here are a couple of suggestions.

First, consider the possibility that God exists and that there is a logical explanation why you have not yet experienced God. For example, imagine that God's Love is like the sun. If people chose to dig a hole and they kept digging deeper and deeper until they ended up living 1,000 feet underground, would they be able to experience the sun shine? No. Would that mean that the sun doesn't

exist? No. It would simply mean that if they want to experience the sun, they must first climb out of the hole they're in.

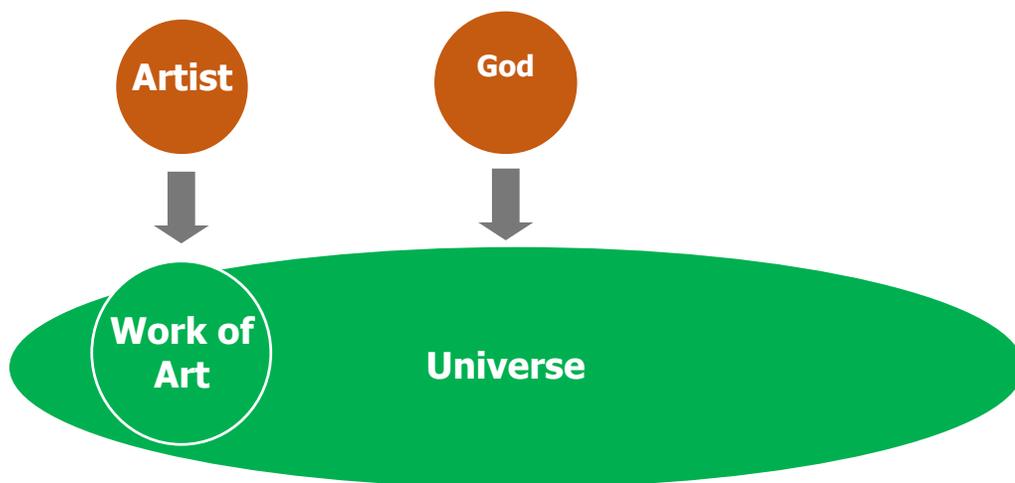
In the same way, the lack of awareness of God's Love may simply be the result of people, over many generations, pursuing a love and a life that have taken them further and further away from God. If we want to experience God, we simply need to turn the direction of our love and our lives around.

Second, for the duration of this seminar, simply accept as a hypothesis the concept that a God of true love exists. In other words, just assume that God exists, and then see where that takes you. And if it opens the door through which you are able to find answers to life's questions and the solutions to problems, then you might want to seriously reconsider whether or not to believe in God.

But even if we assume that God does exist - how can we know who God is? How can we be sure that God is a God of true love?

If we define God as the **Original Being**, the source of the universe, one way we could learn about God is through His creation.

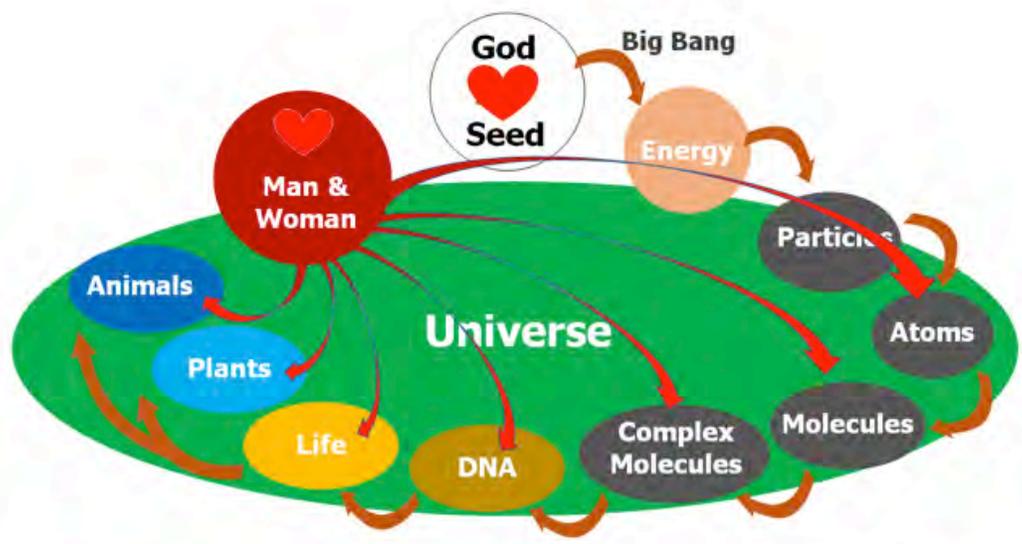
That was the suggestion that St. Paul gave in the Book of Romans (1:20) when he made the point that we can know God's invisible nature by observing what He created. It's like learning about the personality of an artist by studying their work of art. Then, what can we learn about God through His creation?



Imagine that God, the Original Being, is an invisible seed, and the universe is the tree that grew out of that seed. The best way to identify the nature of the seed would be to examine the fruit that the universe produced.

What we're going to learn is that the ultimate fruit of the universe is true love.

The start of the universe, what is called the Big Bang, is when the invisible seed first sprouted. At that point God invested all of Himself in order to bring forth the energy of the universe. Then what happened? Energy did not just sit around. Energy engaged with other energy, and that relationship formed a particle. And like the energy, particles did not just sit around: they engaged with other particles, and those relationships formed atoms. And like the energy and particles, atoms did not just sit around, they engaged with other atoms and they formed molecules. And those molecules engaged with other molecules,



forming more complex molecules.

This process continued to advance on and on until DNA was formed, the molecule that makes life possible. DNA is so complex, it carries hundreds of millions of pieces of information. And with DNA, life could be formed: plant life and animal life. And over time all kinds of complex, interrelated systems of minerals, plants, and animals emerged.

Ultimately, man and woman came into being. And believe it or not, they are the ultimate flower and fruit of the universe. It is true for one simple reason: they possess a heart and the ability to express true love.

For many, when they think of how humans have abused and destroyed much of the creation, it may seem that humans could not be the fruit, but rather they are what's wrong with the universe. But that is fallen, or self-centered, humanity. We will talk more about fallen humanity in the next session.

To understand how humans could be the fruit of the universe, try to think of people when they are at their very best, when they practice true love. When that is the case, they take on a special place in their relationship with the universe.

Unlike any other creation, people are in the position to be able to love, value, appreciate, and care for all things – from energy, to minerals, to plants and animals, there is nothing we can't love and appreciate. We are inspired by the stars, billions of light-years away, and by dinosaurs that have been dead for hundreds of millions of years.

In a sense, the universe is like a museum, and people are the observers who fulfill the purpose of the museum by appreciating its goodness, truth, and beauty.

Love is not just love. We experience love through stages. First, we love as a child – as the son or daughter of our parents. Next, our love matures and we learn to share with and care for our siblings, our brothers and sisters. Even later, our hearts seek for conjugal love, to share our heart with one special person in marriage as husband and wife.

But even that is not the highest love. Parental love is the highest form of love. When a couple give birth to a child and they become one as parents, their hearts change. Parental love is eternal; it never gives up, even if the child happens to go in a bad direction. It is the ultimate expression of true love. Parents, sharing true love with their children, are the ultimate fruit of the universe.

Now, let's go back to the original seed, God, who is the origin and source of the universe, the universe that produced the fruit of true love. We call an apple tree an apple tree because it produces apples, and we call a lemon tree a lemon tree because it produces lemons. Doesn't that mean we ought to call the universe a True Love Tree, or a True Love Universe?

All of this is to demonstrate that God, the Source and Origin of all things, is a God of true love who has the heart of a parent. This is why the Divine Principle refers to God as our Heavenly Parent.



Here is a quote from Rev. Moon:

"I invite you to enter into a transcendent state and prayerfully ask God, "What is the center of the universe?" The answer you hear will undoubtedly be, "the parent-child relationship." Nothing is more important than the relationship between parent and child. This is because it defines the fundamental relationship between the creator

God and human beings."

There is no truth more important for us than this one. Knowing that God is our Heavenly Parent is going to help us answer life's most important questions.

Let's summarize what we have learned about the Original Being. The Original Being, God, is a God of true love. Because this is true, we see a universal principle at work – in which, even though each being tries its best to take care of its own self, at the same time each being plays a crucial role in contributing to the creation of something greater. Energy creates particles, particles create atoms, atoms create molecules, molecules create all the minerals, plants and animals, and all those minerals, plants, and animals contribute to the creation of a vast and complex system of life that has made this amazing world possible. And we, the ultimate fruit of creation, have a conscience that is trying to guide us to practice true love, to live not just for ourselves, but for the sake of others, for the sake of something greater – for our family, our community, our nation, and our world, in order to make something that is good and true and beautiful.

The first act of true love was God's work of creation. God did not create the universe for Himself, but for the sake of His children.



“God invested all of Himself in His creation. He did not reserve even one ounce of energy. Creation was His total labor, His total effort of giving all of Himself.”

We call this God’s heart of creation. We have all benefited from this act of love that created the universe. One of the great tragedies is that people have lost faith in God, and because of that, they have also lost a sense of gratitude for God’s creation of the universe and God’s creation of them.

PART 3: THE PURPOSE OF CREATION

Once we understand that true love is at the core of God’s being, that true love is the guiding force behind the universe and the force that guides our conscience – it is not difficult to understand the purpose of God’s creation.

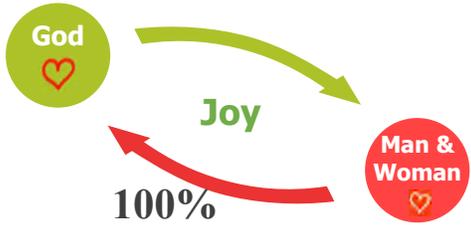
As we mentioned in the beginning of this study program, we all want to be happy. This is because the desire of the heart is joy. And the way the heart finds joy is in loving others. This means that if there were no “other” to love, it would be impossible to experience the joy of loving.

Even God cannot have the experience of giving love if there is no one to give it to. This is the reason God created – to have an object whom God could love. And not just any object. God wanted to have children in whom He would be able to invest His entire heart and through whom He would be able to see His heart of love fully reflected.

Think about it. If you ask your conscience, “*What is the object that will bring me the greatest joy?*”, your conscience will answer, “*It is the object that is able to reflect you most fully.*” This is because the level of love and the level of joy that we experience depends on the degree that the object reflects us.

For example, a plant might bring you more joy than a rock, or a pet could bring you more joy than a plant. But ultimately, neither minerals, plants, or animals can bring us the joy that our heart desires. This is because our heart is satisfied only if it can find an object that is able to reflect it 100%. Only another person can fully reflect our feelings, our thoughts, our interests, and ultimately our love.

Why did God create man and woman?



“You must be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:48

This is also true for God. For God to experience 100% love and joy, God needs an object that can reflect Him 100%. This is why God invested 100% of Himself in His object – man and woman. He did so in order that they would be able to reflect His love 100%. This may seem hard to believe when we look at how badly

humans behave. But the fallen nature we see in ourselves and in others is not our original nature.

Jesus understood our true potential when he taught, *“You must be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.”* (Matthew 5:48) Jesus said this not as though it was something impossible to achieve, but as something that is our destiny.

And if you look at it from God’s viewpoint, if God held back even 1% – if, instead of 100%, He invested only 99% of Himself – then, only 99% of Himself would ever be reflected. There would always be a part of God, that 1%, that would never be fulfilled, that no one would be able to relate to, that would forever be lonely within God’s heart.

Discuss: In your relationships with friends or with a spouse – how important is it that you have something in common? What are some of the things that you have in common with those whom you love?

PART 4: THE THREE BLESSINGS

If our purpose of existence is bring joy to God by reflecting Him through love, how did God intend for us to do that?

God designed three primary relationships through which we would be able to reflect Him. Our conscience is always trying to guide us to fulfill these three relationships through the practice of true love.

Our first and most important relationship is our relationship with God, the second is our relationship with others, and the third is our relationship with the created world in which we live.

These three relationships parallel the Three Blessings that God gave to the first man and woman in Genesis 1:28: *“Be fruitful and multiply, and ... have dominion.”*

“Be fruitful and multiply, and... have dominion ...”

Genesis 1:28

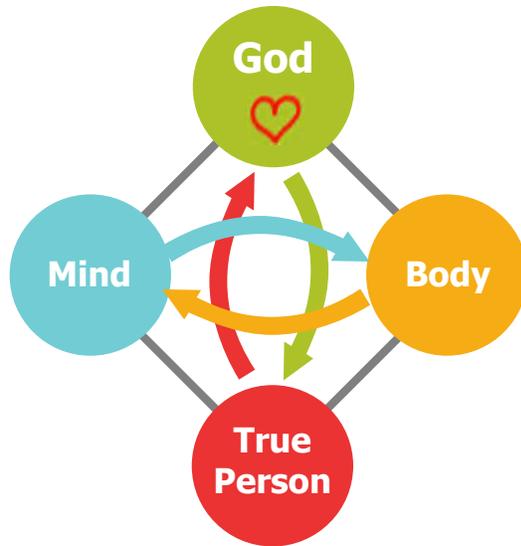
The First Blessing

The First Blessing, to be fruitful, is about our individual relationship with God. This relationship takes place deep within our inner self, within our conscience – that is where we can meet God.

The biblical expression “be fruitful” means that we are to become a mature individual. For a tree to bear fruit, it first must reach a certain level of maturity. For a person to be fruitful means that we are to mature in heart and become a true person. What is a true person? It is a person whose inner self, their conscience, is connected to God’s true love and whose life is lived in perfect harmony with their conscience.

Going back to the Four Position Foundation, God created us with a mind and a body. God, as the Source and Origin of our mind and body, possesses the

Original Mind and Original Body. Within God's Original Mind is God's love, as well as God's intellect, emotion, and will.



What is God's body? It existed before there was a universe, before there was time and space. God's body refers to the energy or force of God by which God created the universe.

In the relationship between God's mind and the things that God does, there is always perfect harmony. There is never a contradiction between them.

Our task is to become a person like that, a person who reflects God, whose mind, centered on our conscience, and body (our actions), are one.

When we become such a person, when we live a life that manifests true love, it will bring God great joy. At the same time it will bring us joy. We will become a person who is liked and admired by our own conscience.

Sadly, this is not the reality of our lives. Because of the Human Fall and the emergence of self-centered love, each person's conscience has been corrupted, some more than others. Instead of being guided by true love, we have been corrupted by our self-centered desires and by voices around us that encourage those desires. We are influenced by the latest fads and trends that tell us how we should look, the kind of clothing we should wear, what it means to be successful, and in general what we have to do to be liked by others and to be liked by ourselves.

Because of the Human Fall, we tend to think we are good people who are qualified to judge others for their faults, when in reality, in our day-to-day lives we fail to live up to the standard of love that we still hold deep within our conscience.

To fulfill the First Blessing, to become a true person, is the first and most important step to finding happiness. Such a person would be one with God in heart and would be the dwelling place of God.

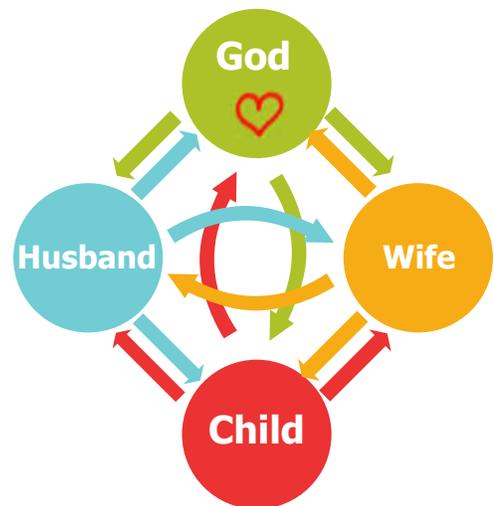
A good example of a person who fulfilled the First Blessing was Jesus. Through Jesus, people were able to experience God's presence, both in the words he spoke and in the life he lived.

The Second Blessing

The Second Blessing, to multiply, is about reflecting God through the relationship of love that is shared between a man and a woman in marriage. The Second Blessing comes on the foundation of the First Blessing, and can be successful only if both the man and woman have matured to the point that they are able to practice true love in their lives.

Through the Second Blessing we are able to reflect God most fully and completely - bringing God and ourselves the greatest joy.

As we stated earlier in this session - God created all things in paired relationships of plus and minus, or in human terms, as male and female. This means that God, the origin of all masculinity, possesses the original masculinity, and as the origin of all femininity, possesses the original femininity. The Bible speaks of God's masculinity and femininity in Genesis 1:27: "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."



This means that one man or one woman can never by themselves become the complete reflection of God. Only a man and woman who are united as one can fully reflect God. This is the purpose of the Second Blessing.

The family that is formed through the Second Blessing is the cornerstone of the Ideal of Creation. This is because it is the Four Position Foundation in

which all the aspects of God's love are expressed and can be experienced. It is the school of love, in which a person can learn how to put love into practice in accordance with their conscience and fulfill the First Blessing.

First, it is the place where we, as children, first receive love and learn to love others, our parents.

Second, it is the place where we learn to love as brothers and sisters.

Third, it is the place where we learn to love as husband and wife.

And fourth, it is the place where we learn to love as parents.

A man, to be fulfilled as a man, needs to experience the heart of being a son, a brother, a husband, and a father. A woman, to be fulfilled as a woman, needs to experience the heart of being a daughter, a sister, a wife, and a mother.

And how does our conscience guide us in these relationships? It guides us according to true love.

In our relationship as a child to our parents, what does our conscience tell us – assuming we had good parents? (If you did not have good parents, imagine what it would be like if you did.) Because our parents gave us everything, including our very existence, our heart wants to give everything to them. When our heart as a child matures, our natural and first desire will be to make our parents happy. That is the true love of a child.

How about with our brothers and sisters? As we mature, our hearts will long to do whatever we can for their happiness.

With our husband or wife, it is the same. When we love our spouse with true love, our greatest happiness will be to see our spouse happy and fulfilled.

Likewise, when we become parents, our deepest desire as a couple will be to see our children happy and fulfilled.

Another way to describe true love was expressed by Rev. Moon when he gave a definition of true happiness: *“True Happiness is to find someone to whom you want to give, and no matter how much you give to them, you always want to give them more.”*

When we hear that definition, it may not sit well with us at first. But think for a moment. If we could find a person for whom we cared – such that we wanted to give that person all we have, and no matter how much we gave, we always wanted to give them more – wouldn't that be the place of happiness? When we feel that way toward our spouse and our spouse feels that way toward us, and when we as a couple feel that way toward our children and as our children grow, they come to feel that way toward us – how great that would be! It would be the happiest place ever!



A family that is bound together in relationships of true love is the place of greatest happiness – and more than our happiness, it is the place of God's greatest happiness. There is no place you can go in all of eternity where you will be able to find a deeper sense of joy and fulfillment than in a family of true love.

Rev. Moon often spoke about the family in this way: *“Where is the ideal training ground of love? The studio in which we are trained to build the ideal framework of true love is none other than the family.”*

If the first family had started well, becoming a family of true love, that family would have grown and expanded to become a community of true love, a nation of true love, and eventually a world of true love. The love relationships in that world would have been the Ideal of Creation.

The Third Blessing

The Third Blessing, to have dominion, is about the dominion of true love. It is about reflecting God and bringing joy to God through our relationship with God's creation, the natural world.

Having fulfilled the ideal of love in the family, God intended to give humanity the responsibility to care for, love, and invest our creativity into all of God's creation, the natural world.

If we understood the incredible investment and effort that God made to create all things, and if we understood that He did that as an act of love, in order to provide us with an environment in which we could find the greatest happiness, our conscience would never have allowed us to misuse it the way we have. Instead of polluting and destroying and using the creation for selfish gain, the human family would have cherished God's creation as the greatest gift.

We would have loved it, appreciated it, and used it to express our love for each other. Our careers, our hobbies, our homes, the food we eat, the clothing we wear, the cars we drive, the music and all the forms of art that we create - everything that involves God's creation was to have been an outcome of the Third Blessing. In such a world the variety of ways in which love could be expressed and joy experienced would have been endless.

Summary

To summarize our purpose in life - it is to become a person who lives a life guided by our conscience, a conscience that is connected to God's love. Second, it is to realize an eternal relationship of love with our spouse, with our children, with our parents, and with our siblings. Finally, it is to manifest our love and our unique creative abilities through the natural world. If we accomplish these things, we will bring the greatest joy to ourselves, to God, to those around us, and to the creation.

This is a good place to take a break

Discuss: In your life, what kinds of ideas or guidance or beliefs have you been exposed to regarding God's existence (or non-existence)?

When you hear the word "family," what kinds of thoughts come to your mind?

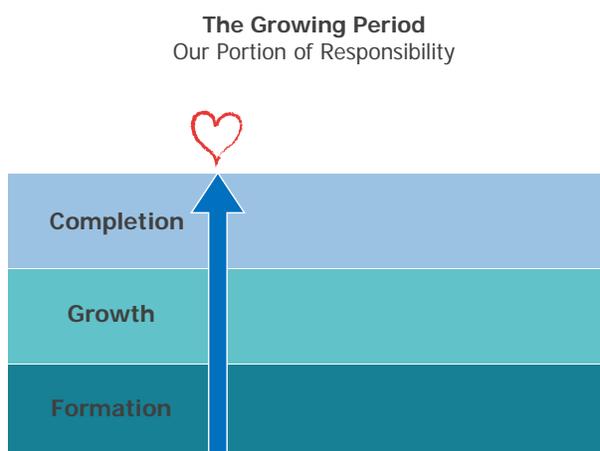
PART 5: GROWING TO MATURITY AND OUR PORTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Let's pause here for a moment and reflect on what we have covered. We've learned about the nature of God and true love, we've learned of God's model for creation, the Four Position Foundation, and we've learned about the purpose of our creation. And it is all good!

Think about it - although we are not there yet, our destiny, the place to which every person's conscience is trying to guide them - is to be God's child whom God loves with an unchanging heart. Secondly, our destiny is to have a partner to love, a spouse with whom we can share our lives and with whom we can give birth to our children. And finally, the entire universe, which is a pretty amazing universe, has been created for our joy - for each person to express their unique creativity, and through which to experience the greatest joy and happiness! Could there be a better destiny than that?

And yet, most likely we are not experiencing these things in our lives. In fact, like almost everyone, we are probably experiencing many difficult and painful struggles. This is why our next topic is so important.

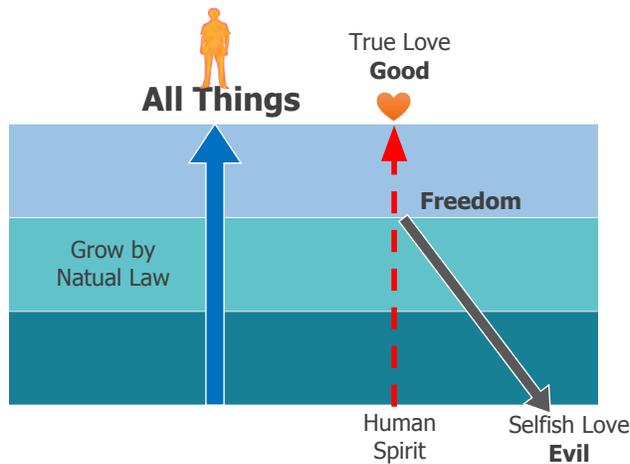
How to Become a True Person



This is the section most people want to avoid, because, as your conscience probably already knows, to become a person of true love is not an easy thing. It takes effort, and it requires perseverance.

All things in God's creation, in order to become what they are to become, pass through a growing period. We divide this growing period into three stages. We call the first stage the Formation Stage, the second is the Growth Stage, and the third is the Completion Stage.

How do all things pass through these three stages of growth? How does a seed grow to become a mature tree? How does an egg hatch and become a mature bird? How did all the parts of our body grow and learn to interact? And how did the sun and planets become a solar system?



The answer is simple: all things grow and become what they become, and do all the things they do, because they are guided to do so by the laws of nature, what the Divine Principle calls God's principles. In other words, the entire universe functions automatically - governed by natural law. This means that everything - every particle, every planet, and every animal - is doing exactly what God designed it to be doing.

This is good, but a universe run only by laws does not provide room for love. Love requires freedom.

Like all things, men and women have a body that grows and lives under the control of natural law. Our heart beats, our blood flows, our muscles contract, our hair grows, and all the activities of our physical bodies take place not by our ability but because of the laws of nature that automatically make things happen.

But unlike the rest of creation, man and woman were given a living spirit by God. And within that spirit is a heart that has the ability to love. The heart is special. It is special because it is not controlled by laws. If it were, it would not be able to love and we would be no more than robots.

The fact that love is free, that we can love as we choose, is what makes love so wonderful.

But love has a dangerous side to it. Because love is not controlled by the laws of nature, because it exists in the realm of freedom - it has the possibility of going in the wrong direction.

Love can go in a good direction and align itself with God's true love, a love that is for the sake of others, or love can go in an evil direction, one that takes us away from God – this is selfish love, love that is for my own sake.

God knew this, and therefore He gave us not only the ability to love but also the responsibility for our love. It is our responsibility to make sure our love goes in the direction of goodness. Each person, not God, is the one who decides on the direction of their heart.

This is important to understand. To be able to love and to be responsible for that love is what enables us to resemble God as God's sons and daughters. When we fulfill our responsibility and align our hearts with God, we will stand alongside God as His co-creators – and be qualified to be the parents to our children and to be lords of creation on God's behalf.

Sadly, the problems that we face in our world make it painfully clear that things did not go well with love. God's ideal of true love was never realized. Why is that? How did God expect the first man and woman to achieve true love?

God did not give the first man and woman responsibility for love without also giving them guidance as to how to fulfill that responsibility. God gave them the guidance they needed that would strengthen and empower their conscience so that they would know the proper action to take when it came to matters of love.

And what was that guidance? It was that they maintain the proper order of love. That before they engage in sexual-romantic love, they first mature in heart to the point that they are able to love as God loves, with true love. In other words, God was guiding them to maintain their purity so that they could prepare their hearts for their future marriage.

Scripture records two occasions on which God gave them this guidance.

The first was when God gave them the Three Blessings. In the Three Blessings God guided Adam and Eve to first become a true person, a true son and daughter of God, before they attempted to engage in love as husband and wife, which was the Second Blessing. In other words, God was guiding them to maintain their purity until they were ready for marriage.

It is interesting to note that it's not only God who teaches this. Many parents in the fallen world teach the same thing. It means their conscience is still

influenced to some degree by true love. They guide their children, *“Before you go out and start making babies [which is the Second Blessing], you had better get your life together [which is the First Blessing]. First become a good person, then make a family. Because it’s not fair to your children if you don’t know how to be a good parent.”*

The second time God guided Adam and Eve to keep their purity was when He gave them the commandment, *“Do not eat of the fruit of good and evil.”* (Genesis 2:17)

What did the fruit represent? What was it that God wanted them to avoid? As we have just learned, the only thing in the universe that God does not control, that can go in a good or evil direction, is love. In other words, the fruit of good and evil was not an actual fruit. The fruit was used as a symbol. It was a symbol of romantic-sexual love.

In reality, God did not say, *“Do not eat a fruit.”* What He said to them was something like, *“Control your hearts, because you are not yet ready to pursue romantic-sexual love. Keep your purity and continue on your course to become my true son and daughter whose hearts are aligned with true love.”*

Looking at the world around us, and looking at human history, when it comes to love, it is clear that the first man and woman did not fulfill the responsibility that was given to them. They instead chose the path of self-centered love, and in doing so set all of humankind on a tragic course. We will explain more about this in Chapter 3, The Human Fall.

Had the first man and woman listened to their conscience and followed God’s guidance, over time they would have matured in body and in spirit, to the point that their hearts would have been fully aligned with God’s heart of true love. Having achieved that goal, they would have stood as God’s true son and daughter – qualified to become husband and wife and to be true parents to their children.

Such a person could never be tempted to commit an act of sin or to do anything in violation of true love. Because to do so would bring unbearable pain to their conscience.

PART 6: LIFE AFTER DEATH



Before we end this presentation, we have one more topic to cover – what happens to us after we die? Is there a spiritual life that continues?

Just as God created us with a mind that is internal and a body that is external, God created the cosmos with an internal universe and an external universe. The internal universe is called the spiritual world, and the external universe is called the physical world.

Because of the Human Fall, not everyone is aware of the spiritual world. But if you believe God exists, it is easy to believe that the spiritual world exists. God, who is eternal, who created humanity to be His children, would not create us to be temporary beings who live and then die, to be gone forever. There is nothing more painful than to lose the ones you love. For God, a world in which everyone God loves is taken away from Him in death would be a living hell. No, God created His children in His image – He created us to be eternal, just as He is.

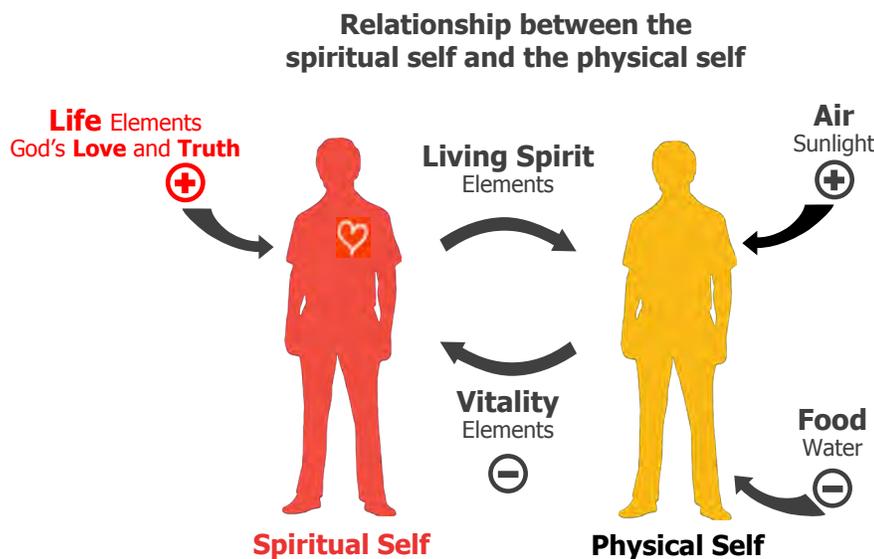
In addition, many people have had spiritual experiences and have testified to the reality of the spiritual world. In Matthew 17:1-5 it is recorded that Jesus' disciples saw him through their spiritual eyes. They saw light emitting from his face, and they saw and spoke with Moses and Elijah who had been physically dead for hundreds of years.

We each have a spirit self and a physical self. Our spirit self has a spirit mind and body, and our physical self has a physical mind and body. We also have five physical and five spiritual senses with which to perceive the two worlds. Most people are not aware of their spiritual senses. This is because, due to the Human Fall, our spiritual senses have become dormant. However, on occasion they can be opened. When that happens, it is called a spiritual experience. You may know someone who has had such an experience. For example - it is not uncommon for people to be visited spiritually in a dream or vision by a loved one, only to discover later that that person had just recently died.

The most critical truth, the truth that everyone needs to realize, is that, unlike our physical self, which is temporary and will come to an end, our spirit self is eternal and will continue to live in the spiritual world.

This means that our spirit is the most important part of who we are. But what is interesting is that the growth of our spirit is dependent on what we believe and what we do in our physical life. In other words, the way you live your physical life is what shapes and determines where your spirit will go when you die. To explain this further.

The physical self grows by receiving air, sunlight, food, and water.



If we're lucky, we can live 100 years, but eventually our body must die and return to the earth

Our **spirit self** grows by receiving life elements from God. These are God's love and truth. In a good world, we would receive these elements through our parents. Their love would be God's love, and their guidance would be God's guidance.

But even if we receive God's love and truth, these two elements by themselves cannot grow our spirit.

The other element that is needed comes from the way we each live our physical life. This is called the vitality element. This is what actually shapes and provides for the substantial growth of our spirit self.

For example, we could receive love and truth that deeply inspire us – by hearing a sermon or by seeing a movie or reading a book. Or we might hear a testimony about a great person who lived a sacrificial life. That person's life story might contain great truths and deeds that move us deeply. We could even be moved to tears. But in the end, if we don't put what we've received into practice, it will have no effect on our spiritual life.

It's when we take an inspiration and we use it to change the way we live our life, to make greater effort to love and care for others – that's what changes a person. That is what creates good vitality elements, the elements that shape our spirit to be good, true, and beautiful.

By the same token, if we act on an idea that is false, if we act based on jealousy and resentment toward others, and if we do things that hurt others in order to benefit ourselves, this will send bad vitality elements to our spirit and our spirit will go down. It will move us further away from God.

This point is well illustrated by the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:18: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Not only do good actions benefit our spirit, when we grow our spirit with good vitality elements, the spirit is then able to give good living spirit elements to the physical body. These elements nourish and protect our physical body.

There is one more point about the spiritual world and spiritual life that is important to understand. We each go through three phases of life. We spend nine months in the liquid of our mother's womb, we then are born into the world of sunlight and air where we live for as much as 100 years, and then at our physical death we are born into eternal life in the spiritual world.

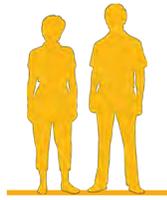
THREE PHASES OF HUMAN LIFE



Womb

Liquid

9 Months



Earth

Air

70-90 Years



Spiritual

Love

∞

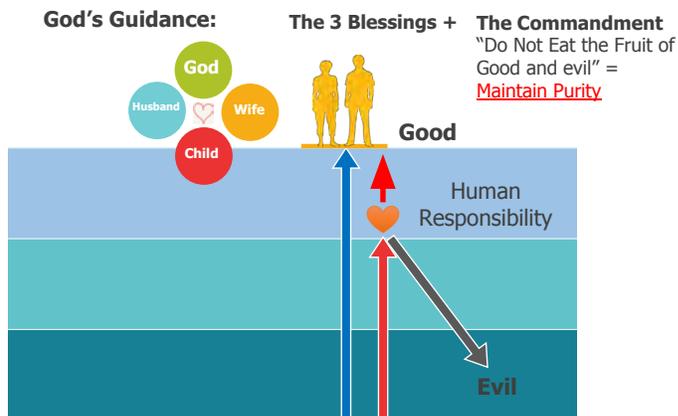
To pass from the physical world into the spiritual world at death is similar to our birth when we pass from our mother's womb into the world of air and sunlight. Both our life in the womb and our life in this physical world are temporary - but they are of critical importance, because they both give us a chance to prepare for the next stage of life.

For example - if we don't develop our lungs and our stomach in the womb, even though they are of no use there, without them we won't be able to breathe or eat after we're born.

Likewise, if we don't develop our ability to love, if we don't develop a relationship with God as God's child - when we pass on to the spiritual world we are going to be in a bad situation.

This means that our physical life is precious. True wisdom is to live life constantly aware of the fact that in this short life we have been given a chance to create a wonderful eternal future. Foolishness is to ignore this fact, to spend our lifetime never trying to understand and never developing our ability to practice true love.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY



To conclude this chapter on God's Ideal of Creation, let's summarize the main points:

First and foremost, God is our Heavenly Parent who contains a heart of true love.

God created man and woman to be His children, children through whom God would be able to experience true love in a substantial way.

God gave us a body that grows automatically. God also gave us a spirit and a heart with which to love.

Love can go in two directions. When we align our hearts with God's true love, love that is for the sake of others – it is good. When love is directed in the direction of selfishness, it becomes evil.

God gave us responsibility for our heart – the free choice to choose its direction. With that responsibility God gave us a conscience that would guide us in the direction of true love.

God also gave us guidance in order to strengthen our conscience and to provide clarity when it comes to how we should love.

If the first man and woman had lived according to their conscience, trusting in God's guidance, they would have grown to maturity, becoming God's true son and true daughter.

As God's true son and daughter, they would have been blessed by God together in marriage as husband and wife. From that love a family would have grown and from that family all of humanity would have been born in true love, grown up in true love, and they would have created families of true love. This would have become the ideal, the kingdom of God on earth.

Finally, when a couple of true love reach old age, they are to pass into the spiritual world and there experience the joy of true love for eternity in their spiritual life.

This is the ideal that God wanted us to fulfill. Sadly, we are far from that ideal today. In the next chapter we are going to learn how true love was lost.

Chapter 2

The Human Fall

In his famous painting, “The Scream,” Edvard Munch captured the anguish, despair, suffering, and misery that are present in human life.

In the previous session we learned about the Ideal of Creation, the life that we were designed to live, the life that we all long for. But the reality is that humanity has experienced a great deal of evil, and even though good people have made tremendous efforts to stop evil, its end does not appear to be in sight.

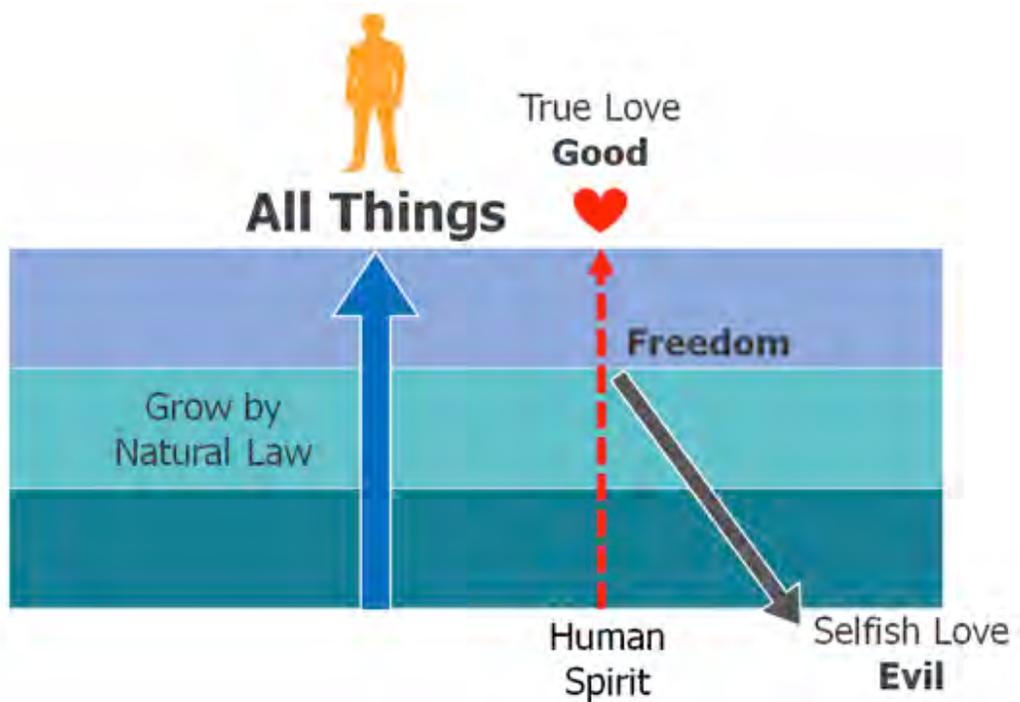
As was explained in the Introduction, before we can fix something, we need to know two things. First, we need to know the Ideal, or how things were supposed to work before there was a problem. Second, we need to know what went wrong. If we know these two things, we can find a solution.

The purpose of this session is to reveal what went wrong.

Discuss: When you hear the word “evil,” what comes to your mind? What are some of the problems that concern you in the world and in your daily life?

PART 1: THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

We face many problems in life. Some are big like war and poverty and social injustice; some are very personal, such as a breakdown of love in the family or a problem with drugs or depression. And some problems are less urgent, but can be very annoying, like a domineering co-worker or a complaining neighbor.



But if we consider our original purpose and potential, at the root of all problems is the reality that our lives, our families, our communities, and our nation and world are not guided by true love. Somehow we became separated from the true love of God. Instead of true love guiding our lives, our self-centered desires have taken over as the dominant force.

We have become beings of contradiction. When we look deeper inside ourselves, we can recognize our conscience and its desire for us to pursue a life of true love: a life that is good, true, and beautiful. But at the same time, we have our more external mind on the surface that seeks to fulfill our self-centered desires. This mind, what we call our fallen mind, listens more to the desires of our body and the opinions of society than to our conscience. It puts "me" first and puts the conscience second. It has the power to make the conscience submit to it, with even the flimsiest of justifications and excuses.

We already gave the example of the last piece of cake. We tell ourselves, *“My sister is trying to lose weight. I will be doing her a favor by eating this,”* and without any hesitancy or sense of guilt, we take what is not ours. Or when it comes to helping make the world better, we tell ourselves, *“Even people who have power and money can’t solve the problems – there is no way that I can change the world!”* And then, without any pain in our conscience, we do nothing to help others.

How did humanity get into this situation? One thing is sure, this is not a new problem. People of every culture from the beginning of recorded history have had to deal with this.

The Divine Principle offers an explanation. The problems we all face have their origins in the first family. If we want to solve our problems, we need to go back and look at what went wrong in the first family.

The first family is like a seed, the seed that produced the human family tree. If a seed is healthy, the entire tree will be healthy. But if a seed is damaged, if the pattern of life in the seed is altered, that will affect the entire tree.

In addition, if the problem is in the seed, even if you cut back the worst branches, the problem will still come back again in the new growth. This explains why, even when righteous people rise up and work hard to push evil down, evil finds a way to come back again. For example, governments try to ban the use of drugs, and some measures may be effective for a time, but eventually the black market finds a way to continue its business.

PART 2: LOVE HAS THE POSSIBILITY FOR GOOD AND EVIL

The key to understanding how things could have gone wrong in the first family can be found in the previous chapter, The Ideal of Creation. Let's take a moment to review a few important points.

All things in the created world become what they are supposed to become by the automatic guiding force of natural law, what we call God's Principles of Creation. Because this is true, there is no possibility for any deviation or problem.

But this is not the case for people. Although our physical bodies grow automatically by the laws of nature, our hearts do not. Love cannot be love if it is controlled by laws. Love must be free. Our hearts and our ability to love can function only when we are free to make our own choices. Even God does not control our love. God made each of us responsible for our own heart - to decide and choose the direction of our love.

God made us responsible for our hearts for a reason - so that we could fully reflect Him and love as He loves. And, by giving us responsibility for the care and proper development of our hearts, to become hearts of true love that resemble God, God made it possible for us to be co-creators with Him. We may not be able to create the universe, but we can help God complete His work of creation when we make the choices that shape our hearts into hearts of true love and in doing so become God's true sons and daughters.

The important point is that love has the possibility of going in a good or a bad direction. Love goes in a good direction when we align it with God's true love. When we do this, our love for others becomes primary and the love for myself becomes a natural outgrowth of that love. This creates a healthy form of self-love.

In contrast to that, love goes in a bad direction when our self-centered desires are put first, when they take priority over everything and everyone else.

Based on this viewpoint, the Divine Principle explains that the origin of the human problem lies in the fact that the first man and woman chose to pursue a path of self-centered love. In doing so, they lost their connection to God and to the voice of God in their conscience. And later, when they went on to create

a family and give birth to children, their children were directly affected. They became the fruit of self-centered love and were raised in an environment of self-centered love.

Instead of true love and the presence of God being passed on from generation to generation, self-centered love was passed on. That first family brought forth the tree which is today the human family - and that same pattern of self-centered love and separation from God that was present in the first family is present in families today.

PART 3: HOW WAS LOVE CORRUPTED?

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we find the story of Adam and Eve, the first couple. It is a story of their sin, of them being cast out of the Garden of Eden, and ultimately it is a story of their failure to create a family centered on God's love.

For many in this modern era, this story is just a myth, not to be taken seriously. Others believe it is a revelation from God. According to the Divine Principle, the biblical account of the first family contains images that are symbolic, that are not to be taken literally. At the same time, it recognizes that these symbolic images convey an important message concerning the corruption of love, a message that we need to understand if we want to solve the problems that we are facing.

For those who don't know the story - the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were in the Garden of Eden. The garden represents God's realm of love. Besides Adam and Eve, there were two special trees, the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and there was a serpent. God guided Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree of good and evil, but the serpent tempted Eve and she ate. She then gave the fruit to Adam and he also ate. God then cursed the serpent, Eve, and Adam and cast them out of the garden.

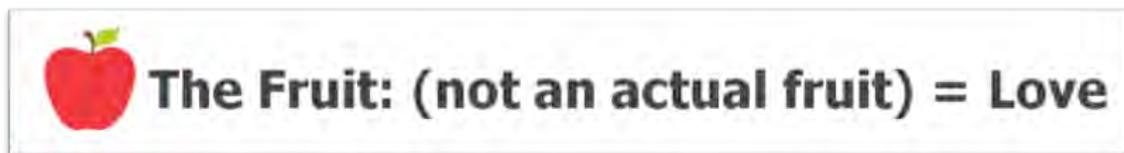
What can we learn from these images?

First, let's clarify the meaning of the fruit. This is the easiest aspect of the story to understand - because we have already clarified that the only aspect of God's creation that can go in both a good and evil direction is love. In other words, the "fruit" of good and evil can only be love. When God told Adam and Eve, "Do not eat the fruit," He was actually telling them to not engage in romantic-sexual love, to maintain their purity until their heart of true love had matured and they were ready for marriage, to fulfill the Second Blessing and give birth to children.

Jesus understood that evil has its origins in the heart, and not in what we eat: *"Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man. ... What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder,*

adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man.”
(Matthew 15:10-11)

This means that when the serpent tempted Eve to eat the fruit, the serpent was trying to tempt her to engage with him in a sexual relationship, not for God’s purpose, but for his self-centered purpose. And likewise, when Eve tempted Adam to eat the fruit, it means she was tempting him to engage in a sexual relationship with her.



This explains why, before the Fall, Adam and Eve were naked without shame and after the Fall, they covered their nakedness, hiding their sexual parts in shame. They did so because it is human nature to hide the instruments of our sin.

Obviously the serpent is not an actual snake. According to scripture, the image of a serpent was used in order to represent an angelic being, in this case the leader of the angels – known as the Archangel.

In Book of Revelation 12:9 it states:

*“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient **serpent**, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and **his angels** were thrown down with him.”*

The Divine Principle teaches that the Archangel seduced Eve, causing her to engage with him in an act of love that was against God’s plan of creation. And if we are familiar with scripture, this is not surprising. According to the Bible, the angels that were condemned committed sins of unnatural lust.

*“And the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day; just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which **likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust.**”* (Jude 6-7)

Let's take a moment to introduce the world of angels.

Angels were one of God's first creations. They are similar to people, but there are some important differences. Like us, they have a spiritual body, but they do not have a physical body. This means that they cannot have children and do not have the ability to fully comprehend the parental heart. Second, whereas men and women were created to be God's children and fully embody God's heart as parents, angels were created to be servants who were to assist God in the work of creation. Hebrews 1:14 describes them as "*ministering spirits, sent forth to serve.*"

Why would an angel want to seduce Eve? What was the motivation that led to such a relationship?

The basic motivation was jealousy. The Archangel was with God from the beginning, assisting God in the work of creation. God loved the angels as his servants, and God channeled that love to the angelic world through the Archangel.

Later, when God created Adam and Eve, God poured all His love into them. This was necessary because they needed to grow to become one in heart with Him and eventually stand in His position as lords of creation. Through Adam and Eve God planned to love all things, including the angels.

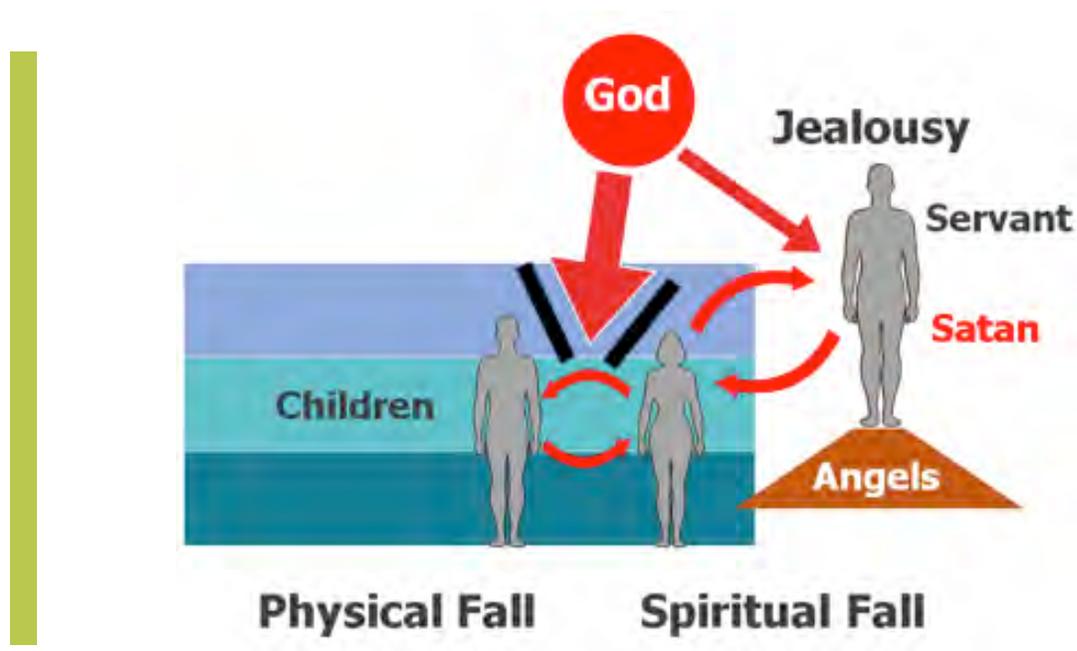
When the Archangel was the center point, receiving God's love and channeling it to the angelic world, he had no problem. He was inspired. But when God gave greater love to Adam and Eve, the Archangel compared the love he was receiving to their love, it made him jealous.

This can be compared to the feeling that children have when a new baby brother or sister is brought into the home. The parents love the older child just as much as before, but now they are giving their attention to the newborn. In a similar way, due to the Archangel's desire for greater love, he felt jealous.

Jealousy is not always bad. If it helps a person to improve oneself, it can be good. But if we allow it to lead us to destroy a rival, it becomes evil. In the case of the Archangel, jealousy set him on a path to seek for greater love for himself, a path that would lead to the downfall of both Eve and Adam, and to their separation from God.

The real problem began when the Archangel engaged in a relationship with Eve in order to satisfy his desire for love. Eve was still immature and did not fully understand the power of love. At that point in her life it was her responsibility to seek for and follow God's guidance with faith. It was her responsibility to reject the Archangel and to maintain her purity. Tragically, she did not consult with God, and eventually her relationship with the Archangel grew to the point that it blinded her to God's will and she engaged in a relationship of fallen love with the Archangel.

This relationship between the Archangel and Eve is called the Spiritual Fall. It took place between their spiritual bodies. As a result, Eve became fallen Eve and the Archangel became the fallen Archangel, known as Satan



After her fall, Eve felt cut off from God's love. Instead of joy, she felt fear and dread. At the same time her eyes had been opened to the experience of sexual love, and she was able to understand that God had intended for Adam be her love partner, not the Archangel.

With that knowledge Eve went to Adam and tempted him with the sexual love that she had learned from the Archangel. But this was the opposite of what God had intended. The love Eve brought to Adam was based on deception, seduction, and personal self-gratification, at the expense of God and God's ideal.

The act of love between Eve and Adam was a physical relationship and is called the Physical Fall.

By pursuing self-centered love, both Adam and Eve were cut off from God's love. This is the true nature of the tragedy that befell the human family.

Why didn't God's voice of true love speak to them through their conscience and prevent them from falling? Love is the most powerful force in God's creation - it is the force that is going to make possible the ideal of creation that God and all humanity long for. When love has not fully developed, the voice of our conscience can guide us in the right direction. But if we allow the force of love to become too strong, it does not allow us to hear the voice of God, speaking to us through our conscience.

This happens all the time in this fallen world. For example, when a married man's secretary flirts with him, he knows clearly that if he responds, this is against the promise of love that he gave to his wife. But if he thinks to himself, *"I like this, even though I know it is wrong. But this won't be a problem, I can handle it,"* and he continues the interaction - the passion of love will easily grow to the point at which he cannot control his desires.

PART 4: THE RESULTS OF THE FALL

The mistake of Adam and Eve not only brought them misery, but it set their descendants and all of humanity on the path of misery, the inevitable product of self-centered love. We see this manifested in their first son, Cain, when he murdered his younger brother, Abel. Where did that kind of self-centeredness come from? He inherited it from his parents.

At this point we may be wondering how all of these things – angels, the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, the serpent, and the fruit of good and evil – are relevant to our daily life and our personal search for true love. In fact, it has everything to do with our present situation.

Let's examine how the Human Fall has affected our daily lives.

To start, all people have been born into the same family, the family of Adam and Eve, the family that began outside the Garden, the family whose love was moving in a direction opposite to that of God's love, the family whose love was based on self-centeredness, deception, and temptation, the family that was separated from God, and the family that, to this day, is still separated from God. To be born into this human family is to be connected to the Fall. This is what we call original sin.

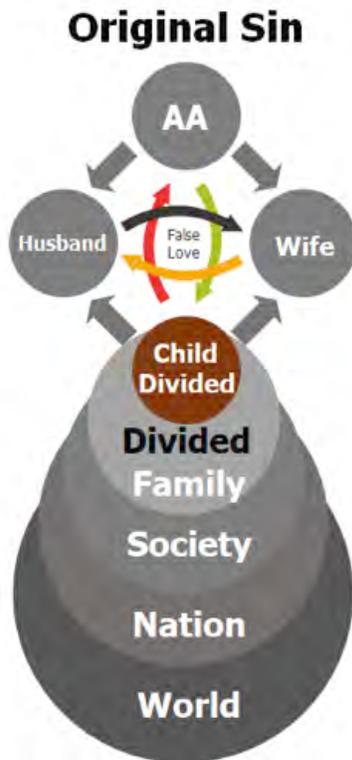
Jesus clearly understood this when he said to the people (John 8:44), *"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires."*

If we go back to the analogy of the seed and the tree – the first family that was formed by the Archangel, Adam, and Eve, became the seed that produced each and every person.

That first family didn't change, it just grew bigger and bigger, and through a long and painful history has become the humanity of today. This is the true significance of original sin. This is the main reason we do not experience God. After the Fall, once humanity separated from God, they committed many more sins.

Some sins we call collective sin. These are sins that affect groups of people, such as religions or nations. In America, slavery is a good example of a collective sin. It is a sin that has affected all Americans, even those who may not have owned slaves.

There are also sins that affect not just ourselves but also our future descendants. We call these inherited sins.



And there are the sins we commit as individuals that are our own responsibility. These are our personal sins.

One important result of the Fall that is quite evident, that has been brought up several times in our study, is that people have two opposing natures. One is our original nature - this is our conscience, trying to guide us to true love, but true love is hard to find. The other is our fallen nature - it seeks selfish love, and finds it everywhere.

If the first family had connected with God's love, all of humanity would have inherited patterns of good relationships that reflect God's nature. Sadly, because of the Fall, we have instead inherited patterns of relationships that we call **fallen nature**.

There are four basic fallen natures that people tend to express over and over again in their lives.

The first is our tendency to **not see things from God's viewpoint**. Another way to say this is that we tend to see things from our own self-centered viewpoint. The Archangel, in his jealousy, failed to see Adam and Eve through God's eyes. If he had considered God's viewpoint, he would have treated them differently.

We are the same. Instead of seeing others through God's eyes, we are focused on ourselves, concerned as to whether or not we will gain what we want. This is self-centered love. It doesn't see the long-term outcome of what we do. An example of this fallen nature is our tendency to dislike others. If someone annoys us, we easily decide that we don't like them. But God does not dislike anyone. God sees the bigger picture. He sees why they have become the annoying person that they are, with all their shortcomings. And He knows it's not all their fault. In addition, God sees their incredible potential and only wants to help them achieve that.

The second fallen nature is our tendency to **leave our proper position**. The Archangel was in the position of servant to Adam and Eve, but he left that position and tried to approach Eve as her love partner.

We see this same nature in people everywhere as they seek unprincipled relationships of love. The proper relationship between men and women of similar age is that of brother and sister. There is only one person with whom we are to share our romantic and sexual love, with whom we will unite in marriage, and with whom we will bear children. But wherever you look, from teenagers in middle school, to married men and women, to the elderly - you can see people flirting with the opposite sex. At work, at school, in recreation - the dating games, the affairs, the adultery, and in general the concept that sex should be free - that you can do whatever feels good without taking responsibility, this has all brought great pain and suffering to the human family.

The third fallen nature is our tendency to **reverse the proper order**. A good example of this can be seen in the proper order that should exist between our mind and body, between what we believe and what we do. Originally, God provided us with a conscience in our inner mind that was to guide the actions of our body. When the mind is healthy and well connected to our conscience, it naturally will dominate and guide our activities (our body).

But this was reversed in the Fall. Even though Adam's conscience knew the right path to take, he allowed the stimulation of love that he experienced through his body to take control. This pattern has continued to this day. People being controlled by the desires of their bodies is a common sight. This is why we see so much addiction - addiction to food, to alcohol, to pain killers, to pornography, to being lazy, to anything that stimulates our bodies. People's inner conscience has been put to sleep, and we have allowed ourselves to become slaves to the desires of our bodies.

Finally the fourth fallen nature is our tendency to **multiply evil**. When Eve was confronted by her conscience, when she knew she had made a mistake, she felt a sense of dread. She felt far away from God. But instead of taking personal responsibility for that, instead of going to God in repentance, she acted as though she had done nothing wrong and seduced Adam. We see this tendency all the time. Even though we know we are guilty, we deny that anything is wrong with us.

And we often blame our problems on others.

When God confronted Adam and Eve after they fell, instead of taking responsibility and repenting for their sin, Adam accused Eve and Eve accused the Archangel. If they had taken responsibility for their mistakes and confessed to God with a sincere heart of repentance, God could have helped them.

This means that in our fallen state, we are unwilling to face our conscience. Instead we want to run away from it. We want to go as far away from our mistake as we can – and so we try to make excuses and deny that we have a problem. This doesn't make things better; it only makes it worse: like someone who has contracted AIDS, but denies it and continues having relationships, thus spreading the disease to others.

Here is another example. If we steal money, that is a sin. But if, when confronted, we claim innocence and blame others – that is a far worse sin. Money can be easily repaid, but a dead conscience and a deceitful heart will create much worse problems and consequences.

One result of the original Fall that we have not yet mentioned is how it affected God. As our Heavenly Parent, God loves us deeply. Therefore, the pain God experienced when His love was betrayed is difficult for anyone to comprehend.

Genesis 6:6 speaks of how God felt when He saw the evil that humanity was committing,

"And it grieved him to his heart."

Rev. Moon, in one of his sermons, stated: *"God fell into a state of great anguish and sorrow, far greater than the sorrow experienced by any human being. His ideal of creation was violated, His beloved son and daughter were violated. He had to surrender to His enemy, Satan, the entire earth, the garden of ideal true love that He had created, and watch as it became Satan's playground."*

The tragedy is that most people are not even aware of our separation from God. They think we are living in a normal world, a normal reality. It is normal not to experience God's presence. War, divorce, suicide, racism, corruption, injustice, greed, and all the things that bring misery in life are seen as a normal part of life and to be expected. Not only that, when we cry out to God, we think it is normal not to receive a response.

In conclusion to this session, as was stated at the start of the first session, through the Fall we have dug ourselves into a hole – and we have no idea where we are, how we got here, or how to get out.

The primary reason people have given up hope, and accept the present reality as normal, is that they don't understand the deeper reason as to why things are the way they are.

The truth regarding the Human Fall that you have just heard is going to change that. God has revealed this truth at this time for a reason. It is so that humankind can finally understand the true reason we are separated from Him and from true love.

This is good news! Because, knowing what went wrong, knowing how we got into this hole – is going to help us understand the way to get out.

The process by which God has been working through history to fix the Human Fall, to bring us up out of the hole we are in, is called **Restoration**. That will be the topic of the next session.

Restoration is possibly the most hopeful and exciting session. It is going to reveal how God has worked with people through the course of human history, including the present time, in order to make a change, to bring us back to the place where we can realize our purpose of creation. And although history has been long and there have been many setbacks – the good news is that there really is a way to make this world, and our lives, better.

Chapter 3

Human History and the Path of Restoration

In the previous two sessions we learned about the Ideal of Creation – how things could and should be, and we learned about the Human Fall – how things went wrong. In this session, Human History and Our Path of Restoration, we are going to focus on how to fix things and make them right. It is especially important to understand God’s strategy, or plan, for restoring the ideal that was lost.

What we are going to learn is that God cannot fix this world by Himself. He needs our help. The problem is that most people are not interested in saving the world.

Why is that? It is because our conscience has been misled. It has been given the wrong idea of what it means to save the world.

The Conscience Can’t Work Properly If It Doesn’t Know the Truth

Deep within each of us the force of true love is trying to guide our conscience to say yes to saving the world. But our conscience is also influenced by what we have learned and by what we have come to believe – and because of that we often say no.



There is no doubt that people would like to save the world if they thought they could. Remember the story that was presented in the Introduction: we had to choose between 10 million dollars and saving a young man’s life. It demonstrated that we do want to live according to the principle of true love, to live for the sake of others.

If our conscience is guided by true love, why do we say no to saving the world?

In the case of the young man, our conscience clearly knew the situation and also the outcome. That makes it much easier for our conscience to work. In our actual lives, we don't know the real situation and we don't know the outcomes. A lack of understanding, combined with a lot of misunderstanding, is what prevents our conscience from working properly. And if our conscience is given false information, it can and will mislead us.

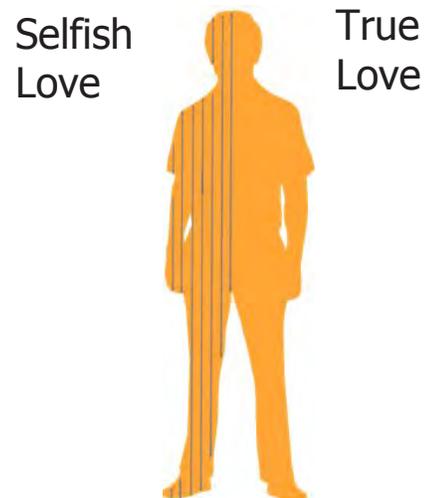
For example, 2,000 years ago, why did the people reject and kill Jesus? He was one of the most loving, beautiful, and true persons that ever lived. It is because they were ignorant of who he was. Because of the lies and rumors that were spread about him, people believed that he was evil, that he was against God, that he had come to tear down the religious traditions, and that Beelzebub the Devil was working through him. If the people had known clearly who Jesus really was, their conscience could have worked as it was meant to - and it would have pushed them to stand up for Jesus and to champion his cause.

In today's world there are people whose conscience tells them it is okay to look down on others because of the color of their skin. Why is that? It is because they have been taught things and raised to believe in things about a particular people that are not true. If the truth were revealed to them clearly enough, their conscience would force them to change their attitude.

An ignorant conscience is one of the main reasons many people do not believe in God. People have been led to believe that God is not only all-loving, He is also all-knowing and all-powerful. They have been taught that He is in control. But with that kind of belief, our conscience is going to tell us, *"If God really loved every person, and if He were really in control and had limitless power, He would prevent innocent people from suffering injustice."*

This is why there are people, especially those who have witnessed suffering and injustice in their lives, who have reached the conclusion that God does not exist - with the help of their conscience.

Inside each of us there are two voices at war with each other. Deep from within us



there is the voice of true love. It is telling us, *“Please, do something, find some way to help save this world. It is the only way you will be truly happy with yourself.”* The other voice is ignorant of who God really is and who we really are. It believes the lie it’s been taught, that life will always have both good and evil and there is nothing we can do to change that. That voice is telling us, *“You can’t save the world. Leaders with power can’t save this world. Even God hasn’t saved the world. Good or bad, people just have to accept the life that they’ve been given and do their best. You can’t do that for them. You can’t even manage to solve your own problems. If you try to save the world, you will only end up losing the little that you have.”*

How is it possible to end this conflict that goes on deep within us, that is preventing us from being truly happy?

The answer lies in knowing clearly what our true situation is. That is why this chapter is so important. In this chapter we are going to learn the truth about God’s strategy and God’s efforts to save this world. It is this truth that is going to realign, reawaken, and rejuvenate our conscience.

To start, it will be helpful to review three important points that we have covered so far.

The first and most important truth is that God is our Heavenly Parent who loves every person with all of His heart.

Second, there is one thing that God does not control, and that is love. God may be all-powerful and He may control the universe, but He does not control love. If He did, it wouldn’t be love. In order to make room for love, God determined that He would not control His children’s heart. Remember, the whole point of God’s creation is to experience true love – through His children, through their families, and through their love for His creation. The fact that God does not control love explains why it was possible for love to be misused and for humanity to turn their hearts away from God in the first place.

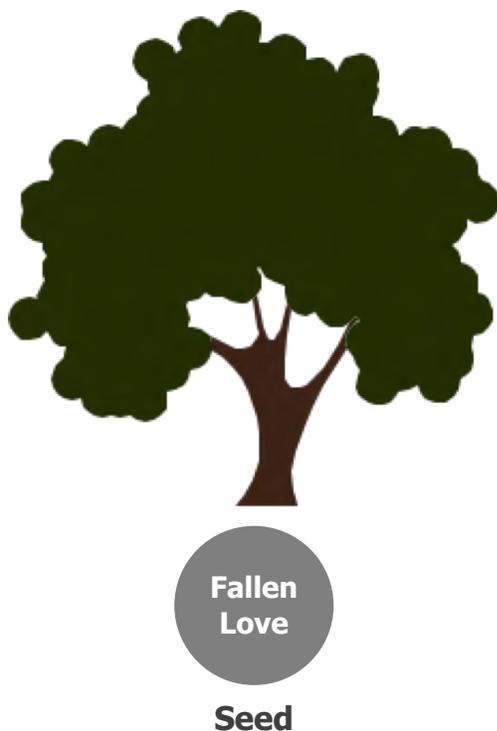
And third, because God does not control our love, and because it was our love that got us into the mess we are in to begin with, God can’t fix this world without our participation. God has been working and is even now working, every moment of every day with a desperate heart to bring His children back home.

But if we don't choose to help, if we don't choose to turn our hearts around in the direction of true love, there is nothing that God can do.

This explains why, even though God has a strategy for fixing the world and saving His children, and even though there has been some progress, still today the world is suffering. This means that God's strategy has not yet been fully successful. And it is not because of God's shortcomings, it is because people have failed to do their part.

And this brings us to the critical question – what exactly is God's strategy or plan for fixing this world? And what is it that we must do to help make it work?

God's Strategy for Fixing the World



To help us understand God's strategy, let's go back to the analogy of the seed. If we view the first family as the seed that brought forth the human family tree, naturally its corruption affects the entire tree. This is common sense – a corrupt seed brings forth a corrupt tree. This explains the fallen state of humanity. But how can it be fixed? How can we change a tree that is tens of thousands of years old into another kind of tree? The answer is simple. It can't be done. We can't change that tree. But what we can do is plant a new tree using a healthy seed that will produce a healthy tree.

And once we have a healthy tree, the people who are members of the corrupted tree can be separated from their tree and grafted into the healthy tree. Eventually this process will move everyone to the healthy tree, and the sick tree will finally disappear. That is God's basic strategy.

Let's take a look at what this means in real life.

To produce this new healthy seed God is going to need a man like Adam and a woman like Eve who, instead of choosing to go against God's true love, as the first Adam and Eve did, choose to unite with and become one with God's true love. If they do that, God will be able to bless their marriage and claim this man and woman as His true son and true daughter. In addition, God will be able to claim their family as His family and their children, and anyone who chooses to join His family, as His children.

The idea of a new Adam, who can stand as God's true son is where the concept of the Messiah comes from. This is why God wanted to send the Messiah - to fulfill what the first Adam never fulfilled - to create a family connected to God's true love.

But a Messiah cannot restore the mistake of Adam and Eve without a woman who can stand as God's true daughter and be the bride that Eve failed to be.



We can then summarize that God's goal from the very beginning of human history, when Adam and Eve destroyed the ideal of true love, has been to send the Messiah, the new Adam, and his bride, the new Eve, to stand as husband and wife and create God's family. When that happens, for the first time people will have a choice - either to remain where we are on the corrupted

family tree, a tree that is rooted in self-centered love, or to cut off from that tree and be engrafted onto God's family tree that is rooted in true love. This is the true meaning of salvation; this is what it means to come back home to where we originally should all have been - members of God's family.

We Must Do Our Part

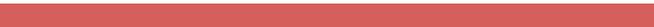
If what we've described is true – that God really does love us as our parent and that He is truly desperate to save us – why didn't He send the Messiah right away at the very start of human history? Why didn't God send the Messiah to Adam's family?

What we are going to learn is that God wanted and tried to do exactly that. He tried to send the Messiah to Adam's family, but His attempt did not succeed. It did not succeed because humanity did not do their part.

95% God's Portion of Responsibility

+5% People's Portion of Responsibility

=100% Accomplishment of God's Will



As we have pointed out several times, for God's will to be accomplished, people must do their part. This is an important principle in God's work of restoration. God, as our parent, takes primary responsibility. Unseen by the fallen world, God is doing most of the work. We

describe God's portion of responsibility as 95%. In comparison to what God does, our portion of responsibility is much smaller – just 5%.

But even though our responsibility is small, if we don't do our part, God's will won't be accomplished, or may succeed only partially. When people fail to do their part, God must wait until He can find another person or people who are willing to work with Him. And if that person or people fail, then God must again find another person or people. This process has been going on for thousands of years, and it is a process that has taken God all the way up to the present moment. Even now God is looking for those people with whom He can work in order to finally complete His plan for restoration and begin a new history of goodness.

What, then, is our responsibility? What does God need us to do – in order for His plan to succeed?

For God, the first thing He needs is a people who will prepare a place where He can send the Messiah and his bride.

One of the primary problems that God has been facing is that evil, by its very nature, wants to destroy the good. That means, when God does send the Messiah, fallen people who have come under the influence of evil through the Fall will stand against him and seek to destroy him. In other words, God knew that if He sent His son, the Messiah, evil people would seek to kill him. This is why, before God can send the Messiah, He must find a people in the fallen world who are willing and able to stand on His side and prepare a place where His son, the Messiah, can come and be received.

Here is an analogy that may help to explain the situation. Imagine there are people in a remote jungle village who are sick with a deadly disease. They represent fallen humanity. The doctor who comes with the cure represents the Messiah. However, because the village is so remote, the only way to reach it is by airplane. But if the airplane tries to land in the jungle where there is no runway, it will crash and burn. Therefore, before the doctor can come, the people must clear the forest, at least enough to create a place for the airplane to land. In the same way, if God were to send the Messiah to the fallen world without preparation having been made, the Messiah surely would be rejected and killed.

For this reason, all God's efforts in His interaction with fallen people over the course of human history have been for one purpose - to raise up a people of faith who would be able to receive His son, the Messiah, the new Adam - and His daughter, the new Eve. Once they were successfully received by God's people, together with those people, the Messiah and his bride would be able to create God's family and eventually reach out to the world and bring all people back to God.

We call this place - where the Messiah can be received and welcomed - the Foundation for the Messiah.

Creating the Foundation for the Messiah

Next, let's discuss how the Foundation for the Messiah is created.

The basic principle is fairly simple. God is able to claim a person (or a people) to be His representative when that person (or people) does things with a sincere

and sacrificial heart that demonstrate their faith in God. A good example would be the saints of history who lived sacrificial lives for the sake of others.

On the other hand, when people do things that are self-centered, when they turn their hearts away from God, and when they put their fallen nature into practice, they become instruments of evil. Examples of this can be seen in people like Hitler, leaders of organized crime, or even the bully on the street.

Discuss: What kinds of actions do you think would inspire God to claim a person as a representative? What kinds of actions would enable evil to work through a person? Can you think of someone in your life who fits one of these two positions?

Let's summarize the key points of restoration.

- God's strategy to save fallen humanity is to create His own family – a family centered on true love in which all people can return to God and become His sons and daughters.
- To create His family, God will send the Messiah, the new Adam, and his bride, the new Eve.
- For God to send the Messiah, He first must find people in the fallen world who can establish a Foundation for the Messiah. These people must stand on God's side by doing things that demonstrate their sincere faith in God.
- The success or failure of God's plan depends on the choices that people make.

The History of God's Efforts to Send the Messiah

Now that we understand why the Messiah and his bride are needed in order for God to save this world, and what humanity needs to do to prepare a foundation for the Messiah and his bride, we may ask the question, "When did God plan to send the Messiah?"

We teach, and people of the Christian faith believe, that Jesus came as the Messiah. The question that has been difficult to answer is: *"If God loves us and*

the only way to save us was for Him to send the Messiah, why did He wait for 4,000 biblical years? Why did Jesus come so late in human history?"

As a parent of true love, if we lost our children we would be desperate to save them as quickly as possible. God, our Heavenly Parent, is the same. What we are going to discover is that after the Fall, God tried to prepare a foundation upon which He could send the Messiah to Adam and Eve's family. Tragically that attempt did not succeed. And many other attempts did not succeed. It took thousands of years for God to prepare a people of faith to whom He could finally send His son, Jesus.

In this study program we will present only a brief overview of God's efforts through history to prepare the foundation for the Messiah. You can find a more complete explanation in the Divine Principle text.

God's efforts to prepare a foundation for the Messiah in Adam and Eve's family began when God reached out to their two sons, Cain and Abel. They both made an offering to God, but God was able to accept only Abel's offering. Abel's sincere offering gave God great hope that all could be restored. But that was just the first step. Through his successful offering, Abel could stand in God's position. What God needed was for his elder brother, Cain, to also make a good condition and come to God's side. According to scripture, God approached Cain to warn him that evil was "at his door," and that God was prepared to bless him if he would overcome the evil and do the right thing. But Cain was not able to humble himself to God, and he killed his brother Abel.

Imagine what God must have felt in His heart when Cain killed Abel. Because of the Fall, the human family was quickly moving in the direction of evil. As our creator and parent, God's heart was in a panic, desperate to stop the evil that He could see was coming to humanity. Through Abel, God had a way to do that - if only Cain could overcome his self-centered heart. But he could not, and God's plan to send the Messiah and end sin in Adam's family did not succeed. From that point, humanity plunged into a long, dark, and violent history.

For God to make another attempt to create a foundation upon which He could send His son, He needed to find another righteous person like Abel. That someone was Noah. God called on Noah to demonstrate his faith through the building of the ark on a mountainside, what seemed like a crazy and impossible

task. But Noah persevered and built the ark. And through Noah's faith, God was able to separate Noah's family from the fallen world through the flood. But just as Abel's faith was not enough, so also Noah's faith alone was not enough. God needed Noah's children to unite with Noah, who stood as God's representative. But sadly Noah's story did not end well. Noah's son Ham did not unite with his father, and the story ended with Noah cursing Ham's descendants. Again, God's efforts to prepare a foundation for the Messiah did not succeed.

But God did not give up. Four hundred years after Noah God called Abraham. Abraham is known throughout the world as the father of faith. Three of the world religions were born from him: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The story of Abraham is special. He is famous for his great faith, as expressed in his willingness to offer his son to God. But just as important as that is the story of his twin grandsons, Esau and Jacob.

In the story of Esau and Jacob we have a repeat of the story of Cain and Abel.

As God works to prepare a foundation for the Messiah, He always chooses someone to represent His position and someone to represent the fallen world, or the position of the fallen Archangel. In Adam's family, Abel represented God's position and Cain represented the position of the Archangel.

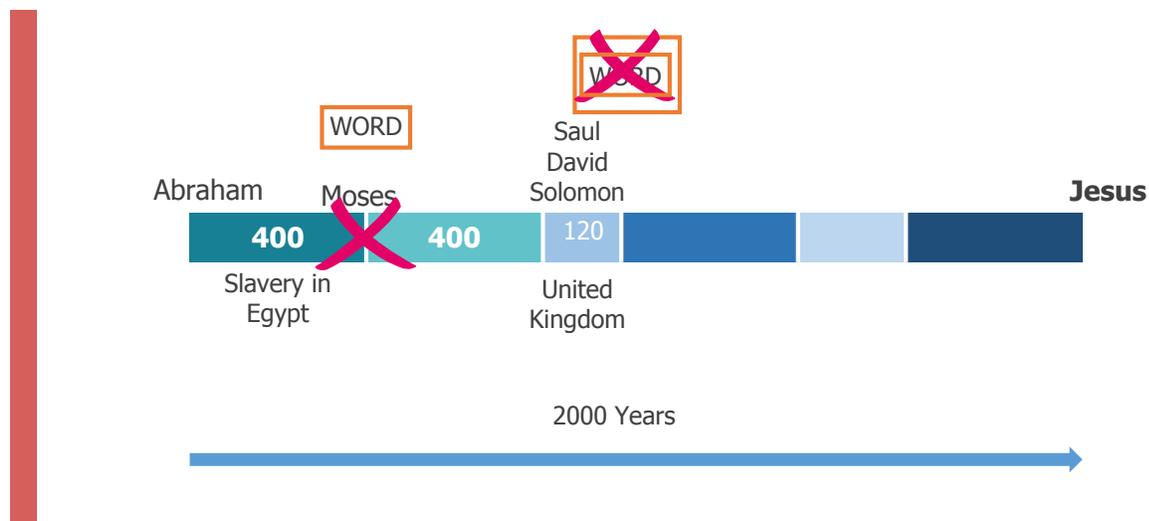
To create the foundation for the Messiah, God needed the person or people representing the fallen Archangel to come to God's side by uniting with the person in God's position. That is why God spoke to Cain, in the hope of preventing Abel's death. God needed Cain to love his brother Abel.

In the story of Esau and Jacob, Esau represented the Archangel, just as Cain did, and Jacob represented God, in the same position as Abel. If you know the story, at one point Esau pledged to kill Jacob. This, of course, would have repeated the tragedy that took place between Cain and Abel. But this time it was different. Jacob escaped from his brother, and for years he lived a sacrificial life under his uncle. When he returned to his brother, he won Esau's heart by sending him gifts and by humbling himself before him. Finally, according to the biblical account, Esau gave up on his pledge to kill his brother and he ran to Jacob and embraced him with tears. Because of this – because self-centered love was overcome and true love was expressed – finally God had hope to send the Messiah.

Through the events that took place in Abraham's family the foundation God needed to send the Messiah was prepared.

Expanding the Foundation for the Messiah, from a Family to a People

Although true love was able to prevail in the story of Esau and Jacob and the foundation for the Messiah was fulfilled successfully – there was still a problem. The Foundation for the Messiah was too small. At the time of Adam and Noah, there weren't other families, so a family foundation was enough. But by the time God called Abraham, the fallen world had expanded its level of power from the family to clans and to kingdoms and empires. Even if Abraham's family were to receive and accept the Messiah, the fallen world had great armies that could easily crush the Messiah and the foundation God had prepared.

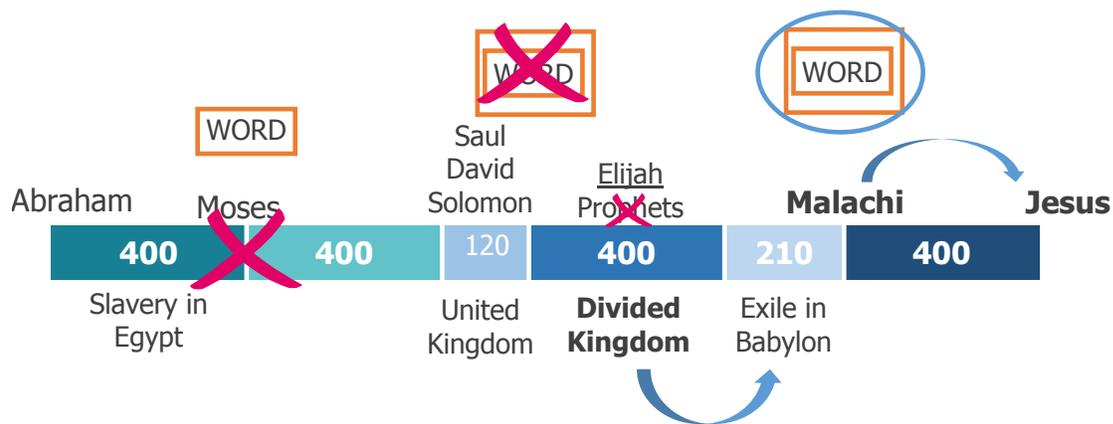


For this reason, God was determined to expand the victory of Esau and Jacob in Abraham's family and create a larger, national-level foundation for the Messiah. God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and his descendants, the Israelites (also known as the Jewish people), became the people through whom God was able to prepare a foundation for the Messiah.

But this wasn't an easy course. From Abraham, it took almost 2,000 years for God to prepare a people that could receive the Messiah. Let's walk through those 2,000 years leading up to Jesus' birth.

For the first 400 years the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. At the end of that period God called on Moses to prepare the necessary foundation for the Messiah. Through Moses God gave the Israelites His Word, the 10 Commandments. If the people had received God's Word and established a kingdom that was centered on His Word, that would have established the foundation for the Messiah that God needed. But that did not happen. The people rebelled against Moses, and the kingdom that could receive the Messiah was not established at that time.

Four hundred years after Moses, God tried again to create such a kingdom. For that purpose He raised up three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon. They each ruled Israel for 40 years, making it a total of 120 years. But each of the kings failed to prepare the Foundation for the Messiah that God needed. Sadly, Solomon, the third king, turned away from God's Word and corrupted the faith of the people with false gods and idol worship.



But still God did not give up. For the next 400 years, a period in which the kingdom was divided, God sent prophets to tell the people that they must come back to the God of Abraham and to the Word that God had given them through Moses. But they did not listen. They rejected and killed the prophets that were sent. Finally, at the end of this 400-year period, Israel was invaded by Babylon. The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took the people of Israel into exile in Babylon.

At this point, there seemed to be no hope for God to send the Messiah. But while the Jewish people were in Babylon, they offered prayers of repentance for

their past sins, and God was able to work. Babylon was invaded and defeated by Persia, and the king of Persia gave permission to the Jews living in exile to return home to Jerusalem.

Over the next 210 years the Israelites returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the city and the Temple where God's Word had been kept. Most importantly, they made a new determination to be faithful to God's Word. Their renewed commitment to God's word is what finally created a foundation for the Messiah to come. This was the foundation that should have been established at the time of Moses, that should have been established through the three kings, and would have been established at the time of the prophets if the people had listened and returned to God's Word at that time.

On this foundation of faith and unity in God's Word, the era of the Old Testament came to a close and a final 400-year period to prepare for the Messiah began. To start that preparation, Malachi, the last Old Testament prophet, proclaimed that the Messiah would come. In addition to that, he proclaimed that God was going to send the prophet Elijah ahead of the Messiah in order to prepare the people's hearts so that they would be ready to receive the Messiah.

As Malachi predicted, 400 years after the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Jesus and the Path of Restoration

According to what we have learned up to this point - from the time that God called Abraham and from the time that Abraham's grandsons Esau and Jacob created the Foundation for the Messiah by winning victory over their fallen nature and by embracing in true love, it took God almost 2,000 years to prepare a people of faith who would be able to receive His son.

Why then, when Jesus came, was he not received? Why wasn't he able to establish God's family? What went wrong? Why did Jesus have to go to the cross and be killed? And why, even though he came as the Messiah, has the world continued to suffer under evil for the past 2,000 years?

The person whom God prepared, who was most responsible for welcoming Jesus as the Messiah, was John the Baptist. As we just mentioned, Malachi, the

last prophet of the Old Testament, proclaimed that the prophet Elijah would return to prepare the hearts of the people before the coming of the Messiah.

According to the New Testament scripture, John the Baptist was the one who came to fulfill the mission of the returning Elijah. The angel Gabriel told John's father that John would have the spirit and power of Elijah and he would prepare a people to receive the coming Lord (Luke 1:17). Later, the Gospel of Luke tells us that John the Baptist came to *"prepare the way for the Lord, ... make the crooked ways straight, the rough ways smooth so that all flesh shall see the salvation of God"* (Luke 3:4-5).

Because of the visitation of the angel Gabriel and miracles surrounding his birth, John the Baptist became famous among the people as a prophet. They even wondered if he might be the Messiah: *"All were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah"* (Luke 3:15).

If John had believed in Jesus and if he had loved him and followed him and supported him – there would have been a way for the religious leaders and the Jewish people to receive Jesus as the Messiah.

However, even though God directly revealed to John that Jesus was the Messiah, and even though John proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah when he baptized Jesus, John never followed Jesus. John went his own way with his own followers. Later, his lack of faith in Jesus as the Messiah was revealed through his words in prison. (Matthew 11:3)

John's story became a great tragedy. Because he did not fulfill his role as Elijah, and even denied that he was Elijah (John 1:21), none of the religious leaders could believe in Jesus. In their minds Elijah had to come first, before the Messiah. Without the returning Elijah, there could be no Messiah.

The most important thing that needed to happen when Jesus came as the Messiah was for the people to receive him. That was why God spent 2,000 years preparing the Jewish people. God needed someone to stand on His side and welcome His son.

Jesus knew this and did all he could do to help the people receive him. He taught them that their salvation depended on three points: that they believe in him (John 6:28), love him (Matthew 10:37), and follow him (Luke 18:18-22).

And when they refused to do that, he performed miracles – in the hope that the miracles would move them to believe in him. *“Even though you do not believe me, believe the works [miracles], so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”* (John 10:38)

And in the parable of the wicked tenants (Matt 21:33), which is the one parable in which Jesus spoke of his coming death, Jesus made it clear that God expected the Jewish people to respect His son. He also made it clear that to kill the Messiah would be a terrible mistake and would bring terrible consequences.

How could this happen? It could happen for the same reason that the Fall could happen. As we have pointed out several times, the one thing God will not control is people’s hearts. God can prepare a chosen people as He prepared the Jewish people, and God can prepare a chosen person as He prepared John the Baptist, but God cannot make them love His son.

Jesus’ Victory of Love on the Cross

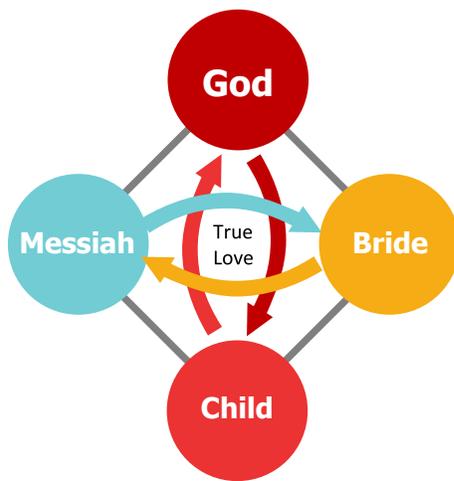
When the religious leaders and the people whom God had chosen as representatives of humanity turned against Jesus, when Jesus’ disciple Judas plotted with the authorities to betray Jesus for money, and when even Jesus’ closest disciples were unable to stand in support of him – this sin became a condition by which evil could claim humanity.

In that situation what could God do? As our parent He became more desperate than ever. How could he prevent evil from taking all of humanity to hell? The only hope God had was in His son, Jesus. God made the determination that He would offer His son in place of humanity.

Jesus was betrayed, brutally beaten, and crucified. On the cross, even God did not stay with Jesus, and so Jesus cried out, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Matthew 27:46) But then Jesus performed the greatest act of love in human history. When it was impossible to love, when his own people had turned against him, when the enemy was killing him, and when even God had left him, Jesus made the decision in his heart to still love, to love his God, to love his people, and to love his enemy – and he prayed, *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”* (Luke 23:34).

Through Jesus' love on the cross and his prayer for forgiveness Jesus won a great victory. From that time forward, any person who chooses to believe in Jesus, love Jesus, and follow Jesus' words becomes a person whom God can claim. The Divine Principle calls this spiritual salvation. This is the greatness of the Christian faith.

The tragic side of Jesus' death on the cross is that evil was able to continue on this earth. For more than 2,000 years it has dominated this world and because of that, God's suffering as our parent has not ended. Because Jesus went to the cross, it became impossible for God to establish His family centered on the Messiah and his bride. This means that even though Jesus came, all people continue to be born into the fallen family tree that began with the first couple.



To change this situation, God's plan has not changed. He must once again send the Messiah as the true Adam and He must send His daughter as the true Eve. In order for that to happen, God began to prepare a new foundation centered on a new people of faith, Christianity. Centered on Christianity, God began to prepare a new foundation for the Messiah, a foundation upon which the Messiah would be able to establish God's family.

This is why in the last book of the Bible, Revelation 19:7-9, when it speaks of the Messiah coming again, it tells us that there will be his bride and there will be a marriage.

We conclude this chapter here. In the next and final chapter we are going to look at God's work, from the time of Jesus' victory on the cross to the present time, and ultimately to the Second Coming. And, although there have been some failures along the way, you are going to discover something truly incredible about the present age in which we are living.

Chapter 4

Conclusion

We have come a long way in our study of true love. We started with its role in the Ideal of Creation, and its influence on our conscience and our desire to find happiness in ourselves, in our families, and in our interaction with God's creation. We then learned of the great tragedy that befell humanity when the first couple turned away from true love and pursued a life based on self-centered love. And in the previous chapter we learned of God's unending love, a love that has compelled Him to reach out to us again and again, despite our failure to respond.

Rev. Moon compared God's heart to that of a parent who, when facing great tragedy, hides that tragedy in their heart and smiles in front of their children in order to give them hope.

Many have believed that God is in control, when in reality He has been fighting desperately to save us, only to be disappointed again and again. Especially devastating for God was our brutal rejection and crucifixion of His son Jesus.

But in that tragedy Jesus was able to revive hope. There is nothing that could have made God more proud and inspired than to see Jesus overcome all the pain in his heart and win the victory of true love, sacrificing himself in order to love others, to love God and to love his enemy. And nothing could have made God happier than to see Jesus snatch the victory out of the hands of evil and put it into God's hands. Because of Jesus' victory, a way was opened for God to raise up a new people of faith through whom He would be able to prepare a new foundation for the Messiah, and in so doing open the way for God to send the Messiah again and finally restore God's family and God's Ideal of Creation.

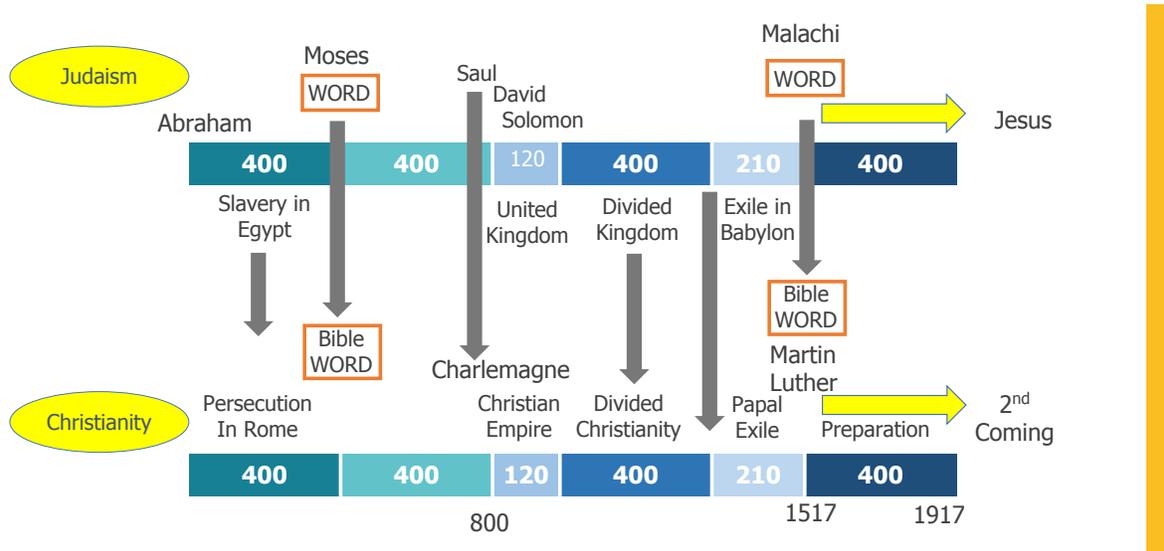
The Path of Restoration Centered on the Christian Faith

When the early followers of Jesus, the first Christians, gathered together after Jesus' crucifixion and they experienced his living presence and were reborn through God's spirit - they became God's new representatives to the world. Centered on Christianity, God was determined to create a new foundation upon which He could send the Messiah a second time.

The history of the Christian faith is a remarkable history. Even though at some points along the way the church experienced corruption and the misuse of power and authority, nevertheless there have always been the saints of the faith who have sacrificed themselves, many giving their lives, to assist God in His effort to love this world and prepare for the Second Coming.

What is most amazing is the degree to which the history of Christianity and their preparation for the Second Coming of the Messiah matches the history of the Jewish people as they prepared for the birth of Jesus, the First Coming of the Messiah. The two histories are incredibly similar. They are similar for the simple reason that in both histories God was trying to accomplish the same goal: preparing a foundation for the coming Messiah. Even our brief overview of the two histories, Jewish and Christian, will demonstrate that behind human history there are spiritual laws and forces at work.

Let's take a look at a few of these similarities - what the Divine Principle calls parallels in human history.



Eight Parallels between the Jewish and Christian Histories: Preparing for the Second Coming

Parallel number 1: In the first 400 years the Jewish people went through great suffering as slaves in Egypt.

Christians suffered 400 years of oppression and martyrdom under the Roman Empire.

Parallel number 2: At the end of the first 400 years, the Word of God was given to the Jewish people through Moses.

For Christianity, when the Christian faith became the faith of Rome in 392, the bishops came together and established the New Testament as the Word of God for the Christian faith.

Parallel number 3: Eight hundred years after Abraham, Saul was anointed as the first King of Israel.

For Christianity, on Christmas day in the year 800, Charlemagne was anointed as emperor by Pope Leo III.

Parallel number 4: After 120 years the Jewish kingdom was divided and entered an era of conflict and corruption.

For Christianity, after 118 years, the empire that was once under Charlemagne's family ended and Europe divided between the two main powers, France and the Holy Roman Empire. This became an era of conflict and corruption for Christianity.

Parallel number 5: God sent prophets to guide the Jewish faith out of corruption, but they were rejected.

For Christianity, great saints appeared in the midst of the corruption, but they were unable to reform the church.

Parallel number 6: Babylon invaded the Jewish kingdom and took the people into exile in Babylon for 70 years.

For Christianity, the pope was taken into "exile" in France under the French king for 68 years.

Parallel number 7: Approximately 210 years after their initial exile, the Jewish people returned home, rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple of God, and restored the Word of God as the center of their faith. On that foundation Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, was able to proclaim the coming of the Messiah.

For Christianity, approximately 210 years after the initial exile of the pope, Martin Luther, a German priest, brought reform to the Christian faith beginning in 1517. One important outcome was that the Word of God, the Bible, became the central core of people's faith. Before Luther, the Bible was written only in Latin and was available only to the priests. After Luther all people were able to have and read the Bible in their own language.

Parallel number 8: Four hundred years after Malachi, the Messiah, Jesus, was born.

For Christianity, in the 400 years after Luther (1517 - 1917), the widespread study of the Bible made people aware of God's plan to send the Messiah again. It also has made them aware of its predictions: that before the Messiah comes again, evil will rise up like a great beast and will attempt to overwhelm the world. But the Messiah will be born and he will be taken to the throne of God (Revelation 12:5), and he will defeat the evil of this world by the sword that issues from his mouth (Revelation 19:15). The sword represents the truth that he is to bring.

And in fact, 400 years after Luther, which was 1917, evil could be seen rising up in the world like a beast. It could be seen in World War I when the Central powers centered on the kaiser of Germany tried to dominate the world. Twenty million people were killed, and 21 million were wounded in that war. That was followed by World War II, in which Hitler, the Fascists in Italy, and the Japanese Empire tried to dominate the world. In that war between 50 million and 56 million people were killed. And during this entire period, beginning in 1917 when the communists took over Russia, communism attempted to dominate the world. The struggle with communism is referred to in the Divine Principle as World War III. In that struggle, communism, which is an atheistic movement, taught that those who stood in the way of their revolution must be either re-educated or put to death. Over 120 million people died because of communism between 1917 and 1991. It was by far the greatest evil the world has ever seen.

Misunderstanding About the Second Coming

Jesus was born 400 years after Malachi, the time at which the Jewish people returned to God's word. Is it possible that the Second Coming took place 400

years after Luther, who in 1517 began the movement that would restore the Bible to a central position in the Christian faith?

If we believe literally the Bible passages that tell us Jesus will come on the clouds of heaven, then, no, the Messiah has not come.

But is that how the Messiah will come? Much of the Bible is written in symbolic language and is not to be taken literally. When Jesus said it would be better to take out your eye than to commit sin with it (Matthew 18:9), he did not literally mean that we should gouge out people's eyes.

And when Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, he did not mean for him to literally climb back into his mother's womb (John 3:3).

If we look at the time when the Jewish people were waiting for the First Coming of the Messiah, we can learn an important lesson. Before Jesus came, there was a prophecy in Daniel 7:13 that the Messiah would come on the clouds of heaven. But as we know, Jesus was born of a woman, from his mother, Mary. What is interesting is that Jesus himself, who knew he was born of Mary, proclaimed that he came down from heaven (John 6:38). This made the Jewish people quite upset. They told him he could not have come from heaven, because they knew his mother, Mary. Then why does the Bible talk about the Messiah coming from above, and why did Jesus claim that he came from above?

To come from above is not to be taken literally. God used the image of a person coming down from heaven on a cloud in order to convey to us a deeper message. All people living on the earth are born into the sinful family that Adam and Eve started. The earth, where sinful people dwell, is therefore used as a symbol of sin. In contrast to that, the heavens above are a symbol of holiness, a place without sin. Therefore, when the Bible gives us the image of the Messiah coming from above, God is actually trying to tell us that the Messiah has no sin, that he is not of this sinful world. He is holy. He is God's son.

This means that just as Jesus did not actually come on the clouds but was born of a woman, so also the Second Coming of the Messiah will not actually come on the clouds. He too will be born of a woman, as is stated in Revelation 12:5:

“And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.”

There is one important reason why the Messiah must be born of a woman with a physical body. It is because his main purpose in coming is to accomplish what Adam and Eve failed to accomplish. The Messiah is coming to find his bride, God’s daughter, and together with her to have children and create an actual family, God’s family, the family through which all people can return home to God.

As was mentioned before, this is why it speaks in Revelation 19:7-9 of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Who Is the Second Coming?

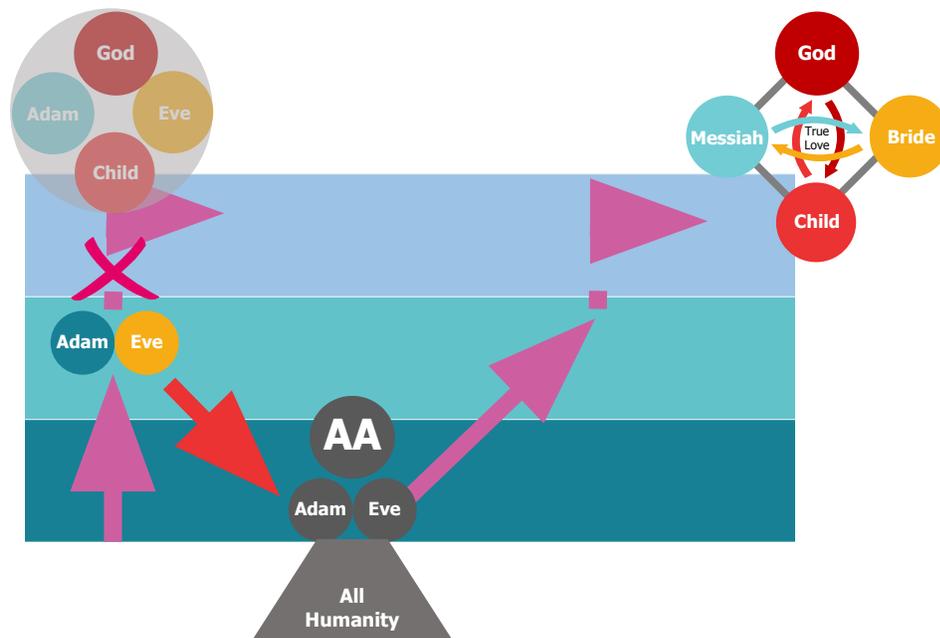
This is the big question. If the Second Coming takes place, how will we know who it is? How are we to know who is and who is not God’s representative?

In Matthew 7:15-20 Jesus gave some good advice on this point. If the Messiah were coming on the clouds, Jesus could have said, *“It’s going to be easy for you to know who the right one is, because he is the only one who will come down on a cloud.”* But that is not what Jesus said. Instead he guided us to examine their fruits and to judge them based on their fruits – whether they are good, representing God, or bad, representing evil.

What, then, is the fruit we should look for? There are many, but without a doubt, this person must be the one who knows the heart of God and God’s true love. In other words, the Messiah is the one who will bring the truth about God that was not understood before, the truth that has the power to change each one of us and ultimately defeat the evil of this world.

That truth is the very truth that you have been studying. It is the truth that reveals God’s original purpose of creation, which is to realize a family based on true love. And it is the truth that reveals how true love was lost. And, most importantly, it is the truth that reveals God’s strategy to restore true love, His heart of restoration and the path that He walked through history in order to save us. Most especially, it is the truth that can show us how we, today, can change

our lives and this world and build the family of true love where all people can become the true sons and daughters of God.



The Story Behind the Family Federation's Founding



Rev. Moon was born in 1920 on a small farm in a rural village in the northern part of Korea. Although Korea is now divided, at the time of his birth Korea was one nation. But it was a nation under the military occupation of the Japanese Empire. The suffering of the Christians under the Japanese was terrible. Many were put to death. During that time the young Rev. Moon went to the

mountains near his home to pray, desperately seeking answers from God, trying to understand why a God of love would allow such evil to dominate the world.

On Easter morning 1935, at the age of 15, while the young Rev. Moon was in prayer on the mountain, Jesus suddenly appeared to him and called on him to take up the mission of ending God's suffering and the suffering of the world.

It was not an easy task for the young Rev. Moon to accept. Overwhelmed by a sense of the weight of the burden that Jesus was giving to him, he initially could not accept it. But later, when he realized that if he did not take this burden, God would have to ask someone else to carry it, he could not bear that thought. And so, he made the decision to accept Jesus' calling and to devote his life as an offering for the fulfillment of God's will.

In later years, when he reflected back on his life, he made the following comment:

"So why did God call me? ... Of all the people in the world, why did He choose me? ... I was just an unremarkable, stubborn, and foolish young boy. If God saw something in me, it must have been a sincere heart that sought Him with tears of love. Whatever the time or place, love is most important. God was searching for a person who would live with a heart of love and who, when faced with suffering, could cut off its effects with love. I was a boy in a rural village with nothing to show for myself. Even now, I insist uncompromisingly on sacrificing my life to live for God's love and nothing else."

After his experience with Jesus, for the next 10 years – from 1935 to 1945 – the young Rev. Moon fought a spiritual battle in search of the truth. Many of the key points he discovered are contained in the text, the Divine Principle, which is the source for the content of this study program.

When World War II ended, Korea was liberated from the Japanese and divided between North and South. Communist Russia took control of the North, and the USA supported a free, democratic Korea in the South. At that time Rev. Moon began his ministry, reaching out to the Christian community with the truth that God had revealed to him. But, just as Jesus was misunderstood and rejected by the religious leaders of his time, so also Rev. Moon was rejected by Christianity.

This was a great tragedy for the world. Rev. Moon had brought the truth that could lift up Christianity and give it the vision it needed to guide the world. After World War II and the defeat of Hitler, all the world was looking with hope to United States, the central Christian nation of the world. But Christianity, without

God's new truth, did not know how to guide the world. Instead of teaching the need for building a world in which all people can live as one family under God, centered on the new Messiah and his bride, Christianity continued to teach the old doctrines of the church. This did not appeal to the new generation, and young people began to leave the churches in large numbers. They looked for other ways to change the world and to be happy - ways that did not include God. This eventually would lead to drugs, free sex, and an emphasis on material pleasures. And the rates of divorce, suicide, child abuse, sexual disease, abortion, and other problems skyrocketed out of control.

God sent Rev. Moon to Christianity, but the Christian leaders in Korea could not humble themselves and were not willing to listen. Finally, not only did they reject Rev. Moon, but the leaders of the Christian faith in North Korea went to the communist authorities to have him arrested. After his arrest he was sentenced to five years in a communist labor camp, a place where religious people and others who did not accept the communist regime were worked to the point of death.



During his captivity, Rev. Moon was beaten and tortured many times. But even when he was near death and his situation seemed hopeless, he never gave up his determination to fulfill the task that Jesus had given him.

"In prison, the authorities beat me endlessly and demanded that I confess my crimes. I endured, though. Even as I was vomiting blood and seemed on the verge of death, I never let myself lose consciousness. Sometimes the pain would be so great I would bend over at the waist. Without thinking, I found myself praying, "God, save me." In the next moment, though, I caught myself

and prayed with confidence, "God, don't worry about me. Sun Myung Moon is not dead yet. I won't let myself die in such a miserable way as this." I was right. It was not yet time for me to die. There was a mountain of tasks before me that I had to accomplish. I had a mission. I was not someone so weak as to be beaten into submission by something as trivial as torture."

Things began to change when the Korean War broke out in 1950 and the UN forces began to bomb the industrial areas in the North where Rev. Moon was being held prisoner. During one period of heavy bombing the prison guards fled, and, after spending two years and eight months in the prison camp, Rev. Moon was able to escape. He and two of his disciples made the long journey to the southern tip of Korea, to the city of Busan, where he built a hut with mud and stone and ration boxes from the United States army base.

Having lost the 2,000-year Christian foundation that God had prepared, Rev. Moon determined that he would start from scratch and build a new world-wide Christian movement that would be able to receive God's message.

With that determination Rev. Moon began to teach with all his strength and spirit. He taught whoever was willing to listen. And by 1954 he had attracted enough followers to officially establish a religious organization. Today that organization is called the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

From 1954 more and more people began to be inspired by the content of the Divine Principle and by the vision of the movement Rev. Moon had founded. In particular, one woman and her daughter were guided by heaven to meet Rev. Moon. That daughter was to later become Rev. Moon's bride.

Her name is Hak Ja Han. She was born in 1943 in the northern part of Korea, not far from where Rev. Moon was born. She was raised by her mother, a devout Christian woman. Because of their strong faith, she and her mother were arrested by the North Korean communist police. Like Rev. Moon, they managed to escape and flee to the South. Her mother had several dreams of Rev. Moon, although at the time she did not know who he was. And so, from the moment she first met him, she knew it was where God wanted her and her daughter to be.

1. *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*, pg. 92.



In 1960 a special event took place that would forever impact the world – Rev. Moon and Hak Ja Han were united in marriage, a marriage ceremony that God was able to bless and recognize as belonging to Him.

This ceremony would become a turning point in human history, and in the lives of countless numbers of couples who would share in the

same ceremony. Beginning with their marriage, Rev. and Mrs. Moon proclaimed the start of a new era in which the family, founded on true love, is the cornerstone for building a good and peaceful world in which all people are to live as one family under God. This is what should have happened at the beginning of human history beginning with Adam and Eve’s family, and it’s what should have happened at the time of Jesus 2,000 years ago.

From 1960 to his passing in 2012, Rev. Moon invested everything he had into building God’s family. He went on countless speaking tours, he created a movement with active centers in communities across the United States and in every country of the world, he built businesses, established universities and newspapers, created a clergy association, promoted interfaith dialogue, worked for the creation of an international highway, and much more.



But the activities that were most central to the teachings and projects of Rev. and Mrs. Moon – were the Marriage Blessing Ceremonies that they officiated. After the Holy Wedding of Rev. and Mrs. Moon in 1960, they gave the Marriage Blessing to 36 couples. And, as more and more people came to understand the Divine Principle and the significance of the Blessing

ceremony, the Blessing ceremonies grew in size: from 36 couples to 72

couples, to 124, to 430, to 777, to 1,800, and so on until in 1992, 30,000 couples took part in the Blessing ceremony. Since then, every year thousands of couples participate in Blessing ceremonies that are held around the world.

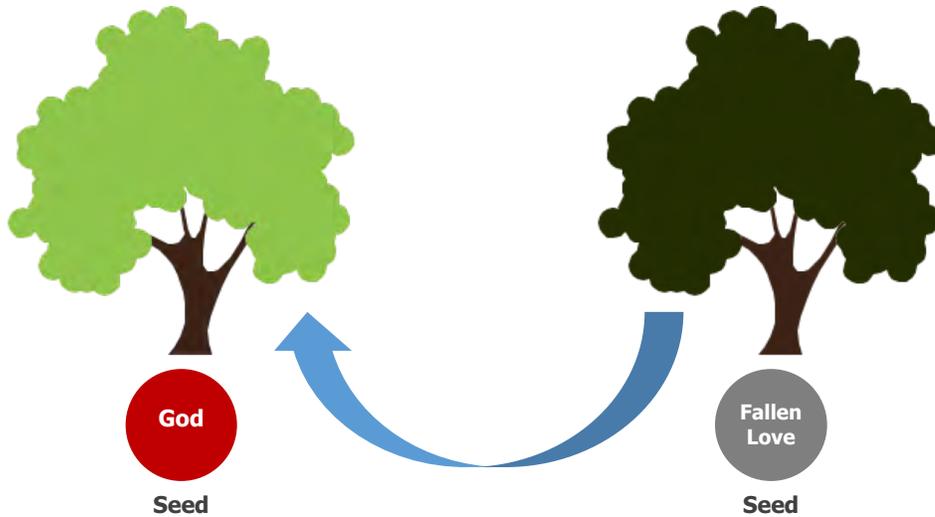
The Blessing of Marriage Ceremony

The purpose of the Blessing ceremony is to provide a gateway through which couples, both newlyweds and those who are already married, can fulfill God's original Ideal of Creation. Because of the Human Fall, the first marriage took place outside of the garden, separated from God's true love. In the Blessing ceremony, a couple make the determination that they will practice a life of true love in their relationship as husband and wife, and also as parents in relation to their children.

The first part of the ceremony is called the Holy Wine Ceremony (or juice, for those who cannot drink wine). In this ceremony the man and woman drink from the same cup. The significance of this ceremony is that it represents the couple restoring the failure of Adam and Eve - going back into the garden of God's original true love. Through this ceremony the couple end their connection to the Fall and become the son and daughter of God's family.

The Holy Wine Ceremony is followed by the Marriage Blessing Ceremony. In this ceremony the couple affirm the Blessing vows. As in any marriage, the couple vow to be faithful to one another. But unlike a typical marriage, the Blessing vows include a promise by the couple to help God in the great task of bringing all of His children home and fulfilling the ideal of one family under God.

If we go back to the analogy of the two trees, the Blessing is the ceremony by which we move from the tree that grew out of the fallen love of Adam and Eve and are engrafted onto the tree that grew out of God's love. As God's family tree grows and becomes stronger and more beautiful, it will change not just our families but also our communities, our nation, and our world.



The Good News

When we started this study program, we talked about finding true happiness. We learned that to do that, our inner self, our conscience, has to be happy with ourselves. And to do that, we learned that we must live a life of true love by living for the sake of others, and in doing so create a life that is good, that is true, and that is beautiful.

The good news is that the content contained in the Divine Principle – which is the source of all that we have studied together here – has the power to bring us out of the ignorance that has crippled us and in so doing rejuvenate our conscience and give us a clear path by which we can align our lives with the heart of God, the heart of true love.

Because we are all different and special, our path of following our conscience will vary from person to person. But it is also true that we share many things in common, such as the fact that we are all on the way to becoming God's sons and daughters. And since that is true, there are some things that everyone's conscience is going to want them to do.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Continue the process of overcoming our ignorance. It would be valuable to continue to study the Divine Principle. Each time we do, we will gain something more.

2. Fulfill our 5% responsibility. Don't expect God to act first. We need to take the time and make the effort to do something to demonstrate our sincere faith in God. To begin a discipline of praying every day is especially good.
3. Take control of your love life. Don't be like Adam and Eve who messed around with love. To prepare to receive God's Blessing on your marriage, be faithful to one another. If you are preparing for your future marriage, keep your love pure - as an act of love for your future spouse.
4. Put true love into practice. Don't think that you have to sacrifice everything. No, your conscience will tell you, "You do not need to save the world. God is working on that. What would be really great is if you could help God save the world."

And what did we learn from history? What is it that we can do that will help God the most? It is to find the person or people whom God has called to be His representatives at this time, those who are actively working to build God's ideal. And when we find those people, we can help God if we support and help them to our best ability. If we are only able to help a little, then we need to help a little. And if we can do more, then we need to do more. The key is to be honest with ourselves and to invest our sincere heart. Our conscience will never ask for more than that.

Discuss: What person or people do you think God is working through in the world today?

