

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Michael Balcomb - We're Small, But Mustn't Forget That God Is Great

Knut Holdhus
September 25, 2024



[Mother Moon](#) at an international leaders' meeting in Gapyeong, South Korea 6th September 2024

Message: God is great and can do great things. That's exactly what a small minority should not forget when facing the huge problems of the world



Michael Balcomb Sept. 15, 2024

Part 3 of extracts from a sermon titled "In Our Parent's House", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), gave at the Sunday service in North London on 15th September 2024. Slightly edited.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

So what's going to happen next year? [...] What does [Mother Moon](#) want to do? [...]

[Mother](#) is thinking of this very simple ceremony. She will enter the Cheonwon Goong, the sanctum alone, and she'll offer a prayer to [God](#) and then be surrounded by children and people of all different backgrounds and faiths to show [God](#) we want you to use this place to be free, to use it as a palace of peace. [...]

The [True Parents](#) used to talk about the [...] things that make up a [kingdom](#). [...] But actually, the most important thing is the people, right? If it were not for people, [God](#) would have built the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) a long time ago. But it's all about the people, and that is us. But it's also everyone.

I don't know if you read the news yesterday of the Pope, who's on tour in the Far East, and what he said, it was very controversial, even in the Catholic Church, but he said that all religions are pathways to [God](#). All religions are like different languages to understand the truth of [God](#). And if we feel that my religion is better than your religion, or my truth is higher than your truth, that only leads to conflict and misery.

Pretty strong words for the Pope. I was very happy to see them, and I think that kind of spirit is in the air.

It's certainly the goal that the [True Parents](#) have for this amazing facility in Korea. [...]

[Mother](#) emphasised so much recently the need for outreach. [...] And [...] we should care about people [...] because they are the sons and daughters of [God](#).



Pope Francis 14th June 2024.

Sometimes when I really am upset with someone, which happens quite often, I hear the voice of [God](#), and it's always the same message, [God](#) says,

"You are upset with those persons because they're not like you, they're not in your image. They don't correspond to what you think is a good person, a righteous person, a beautiful person. But I want you to remember that they are in my image, each and every one of them, faults, warts, mistakes and all. And if you want me to look at you with kindness and graciousness, you had better start doing the same."

It seems, from our experience, that this is impossibly idealistic, right?

The world is huge, and it's full of conflict. What can a small group of people do to redress the balance? But if we feel like that, we're ignoring the fact that [God](#) is [God](#), that [God](#) is great,

and [God](#) is on the throne if we let him or her be.



Mother Moon speaking in Munich, Germany 19th May 2024

I've asked [Mother Moon](#) about this many times,

"I kind of feel, [Mother](#), do you know what's going on in Korea? We talk about Korean unification, but meanwhile, in the north, they're destroying the railways, the bridges, all the effort that was made over 40 years, they're wiping it away."

And she said,

"Yeah, but that's human effort. What's done can be undone very quickly. What you have to realise is how to harness the power and the spirit of [God](#)."

As it says,

"Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord." (Zechariah 4:6)

"Why doesn't [God](#) exercise that spiritual power right away?" I asked myself. It's because he wants us to be part of it. He's always wanted us. It's our [kingdom](#), it's our family, it's our palace.

And if it's just done for us, and no one takes responsibility, it will end up in that pile of rubble where people walk by, because what we need is deep, powerful ownership and feeling this is mine. [...]

What do you need to do? The most important thing that we've been asked to do is to bring ourselves with the best heart and attitude we can have, to have a pure, upright mind. As King David said once,

"Create in me a clean heart, O Lord." (Psalm 51:10)

If we're honest, we're not like that all the time. You've probably heard there's going to be an opportunity for devotion and grace. Sometimes people think,

"Why do I need grace? I haven't robbed anybody, I haven't committed adultery, I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't do drugs, I don't beat my wife. I'm already perfect."

But for me, it's always more about the things that I didn't do, the sins of omission, the love that I didn't give, the responsibility I didn't take.

Everybody's different, but definitely we have an opportunity to make a fresh start. So, if you're planning to come, please think about how, as an individual, as a family, we could make such a fresh start. [...]

Please think to yourself, "Can I be there? Shall I be there?"

Of course, not everybody can be in that small sanctuary on the same day, but there will be a very well

organised system of timed admission. So if you come, you will have your moment to be in the temple of [God](#), the dwelling place of [God](#). I think it's worth it.

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• September 23, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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Dr. Michael Balcomb giving his sermon 15th

Part 2 of extracts from a sermon titled "In Our Parent's House", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, gave at the Sunday service in North London on 15th September 2024. Slightly edited.

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Dr. Michael Balcomb giving his sermon 15th September 2024. Photo: FFWPU

the Middle East region of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, gave at the Sunday service in North London on 15th September 2024. Slightly edited.

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The second reading comes from the well-known chapter in 1st Corinthians.

"Don't you realize that all of you together are the house of God, and that the Spirit of God lives among you in his house? If anyone defiles and spoils God's home, God will destroy him. For God's home is holy and clean, and you are that home." (1. Corinthians 3:16-17 – Bible Gateway)

And we use it a lot in the Divine Principle where Paul says,

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (RSV)

I always thought that that meant me personally, and that it was a direction to keep yourself pure and holy because God is living in your body as his temple. Actually, that meaning comes a bit later, but in this chapter, the "you" is plural.



Spirit-filled congregation. Photo (2022): Zlwchurchint1 / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int. Cropped

Paul is addressing the whole congregation, just like we are this morning. In other words, do you not know that "North London" is God's temple? This entire congregation and God's spirit dwells in all of you together.

And if anyone is lost or struggling or even – it says in the scripture – quite strongly damaging the temple of God, he will be damaged, even destroyed.

But I feel, as a community, and I certainly speak for myself, I don't often feel that way. I feel, "Well, me, maybe my wife, my family, I can manage that."

But do I really think that our congregation is the temple of God, the dwelling place of God? We sang that this morning.

But we need to up our game, especially as we start preparing for what's going to happen next year. Of course – as well as that temple in Korea that's going to be dedicated – the hope of our Heavenly Parent is that our communities and our homes will likewise become a place where the Heavenly Parent feels completely at home.

Now, I did mention that in 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul is talking about you, the individual,

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own;"



Meant to be temple of God: Girls in Lisbon, Portugal 6th April 2017. Photo: Maria Eklind / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 2.0 Gen

Paul is particularly talking about the importance of keeping your family and your life pure, not just sexually pure, but spiritually pure.

So, there's a role for the individual. We ourselves have a duty before God to keep our lives as pure and upright as we can, and as a community, to love each other and care for each other.

Because if we don't, no building is going to change that. Right? It's entirely a matter of relationship.

So, as I said, I started to think over time,

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"Maybe physical buildings are not so important. It's all about the family, the relationship, myself."

But I think that's an overcorrection. We know that Jesus said things like,

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19)

On another occasion he said,

"My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36)

But we have to realise that this is already after it had become clear that his original purpose to build the **Kingdom of God** – starting in Israel and spreading throughout the world – would no longer be possible.



Artistic image from 2021 of Jesus from multiple sources, including the Shroud of Turin (XIV century). Photo: Monozigote / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int

It is a mistake to think that God is only interested in the spiritual, that the **Kingdom of Heaven** is something that may happen in a distant future or only in the spiritual realm.

No, it has to be created right here on the earth. This is where **God** would like to see his **kingdom**. This is where he'd like to see his children living in peace and justice. [...]

Sometimes people ask me, "What does the ideal world look like?"

I say,

"It's very simple. All the nations of the world uphold the word of **God** as the final authority. And the families live in peace. They're blessed. They're generous. They care for each other. They care for the nation. The nation itself welcomes foreigners and is committed to taking care of the planet as the gift of **God**."

It's very simple, actually. Religion, politics, those sort of things don't really enter it at all. It's simply the manifestation of the three blessings.

But the world today is not like that, right? In his prayer, William [person in congregation] mentioned Russia and Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan. The list is endless. [...]

So what do we do? Do we throw up our hands and say,

"Look, let's face it, this is a moving target. It's a carrot that's always a little bit out of reach. And frankly, we will never live in that kind of world. Let's give it up."

Hezbollah carried out a training exercise in Aaramta village in the Jezzine District, southern Lebanon, on Sunday, 21st May 2023. Photo: Tasnim News Agency reporter / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC Attr 4.0 Int

Or we could do what **Mother Moon** is trying to do, which is to show a model somewhere. For **Mother**, that model is at the Cheonwon Goong and the HJ Cheonwon campus that we have there.

If you haven't been recently, I strongly recommend you to go again.

But for us that model is right here, isn't it? It's in our community. It's in our families. It's in our homes. That's what we can take responsibility for. And if we give up or don't do it or settle for something less, then, of course, that's a disappointment to our Heavenly Parent.

Continued in [part 3](#)

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Featured image above: Cheonwon Goong taking shape. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceTV.

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