

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Michael Balcomb on Mother Moon - How to Be a Filial Son or Daughter

Knut Holdhus
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In message delivered in Copenhagen Dr. Michael Balcomb explains how Mother Moon teaches us to become a filial son or daughter for God, our Heavenly Parent

Part 2 of extracts from a sermon titled "With Whom I Am Well Pleased", 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 Copenhagen, Denmark on 10th November 2024. Slightly edited.

See [part 1 God and You: "With Whom I Am Well Pleased"](#)

Elsewhere you read that [Father](#) said,

"There were days when I felt the presence of [God](#) like a gentle spring breeze. And Jesus came to me and spoke loving words and taught me."



Then you turn the page, and it says,

"And there were days that I felt surrounded by darkness, that there was no word from heaven, no word at all."

Mother Teresa is famous for explaining when asked about her relationship with [God](#) and somebody asked her, "So what do you say to [God](#)?"

She said, "I don't say anything. I just listen."

Then the same interviewer asked her, "So what does [God](#) say to you?"

"He doesn't say anything," she replied. "He just listens."

Listening, and even without words, seems to be at the very core of coming to know who our Heavenly Parent is. These days, we're hearing a lot about our Heavenly Mother [Editor's note: the motherly aspect of [God](#)], right? About the feminine heart of [God](#). And sometimes, actually almost every day, I get people complaining to me,

"We haven't heard this before. Why are we hearing this now? What about this? What about that?"

I just feel, every time,

"Can you listen before asking your questions, before raising your alternatives? Could you listen?"

Imagine that our Heavenly Mother [Editor's note: the motherly aspect of [God](#)] has been silent for 6,000 years. And finally, through [True Mother](#), is getting a voice. And the very first thing we do is to start to argue or say, "It doesn't sound quite like what I heard before."

How heartbreaking would that be, right? How much better it would be just to listen, even for quite a long time, and be patient and let the truth emerge.

And then what about [Mother](#)? I remember early on meeting [True Mother](#) right after [Father](#) ascended. It was about two weeks later, and [Mother](#) called me to Korea. Actually, I didn't know it was [Mother](#) calling,

really. [...]



Father and Mother Moon speaking on 21st April 2012 at Cheongshim Peace World Center, Gapyeong, South Korea, just months before he ascended

I got a sudden call, "Come to Korea!" I came to Korea. When I got there, it turned out that [Mother](#) wanted to see me. I didn't really know [Mother](#) at all. Of course, I'd been many times in East Garden [Editor's note: property in Irvington, New York used for FFWPU events and gatherings] to hoondokhae [Editor's note: Gatherings to read from Holy Scriptures and learn] meetings with the [True Parents](#), but usually [Father](#) did the talking.

[Mother](#) asked me to sit down in front of her. [...] She looked at me and said,

"You have a doctorate from UTS, don't you?" [Editor's note: Unification Theological Seminary, now called [HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership \(HJI\)](#)]



The Chinese character for hyo (filial piety). In the character a son, 子 (Korean ja), carries an old man, 老 (Korean no), on his back

I said, "Yes." She said, "Don't worry, that's not why I called you here."

She proceeded to share with me and asked,

"Do you know what it means to be a filial son?"

How would you answer that question? A part of me would like to say,

"Yes, I know how to be a filial son. Here I am. I've been here for 40 years."

Another part was saying,

"Actually, not really. I'm sorry, I don't feel I am."

I think [True Mother](#) saw my struggle. She said,

"Let me help you to understand what a filial son is. A filial son has one overriding concern, and that is to see his parents dream fulfilled.

Okay, let me give you an example. Let me make it simple. As you know, in America, there are many Korean families that emigrated there. There are hundreds of thousands, and very often the parents came with nothing. But they worked hard, desperately hard, to make a better future for their children.

Very often, they'd open a laundry or grocery store, which would stay open day and night. The parents would work hard, and then they'd make money. And of course, they would like their children to do better.

So they'd like them to get good educations and good careers.

I was listening to [Mother](#), and she said, "Okay? Are you with me so far?"



Korean restaurant in Greenwich Village, New York that closed its doors in 2015

I said, "Yes, [Mother](#), I understand."

She said,

"Okay, then the day comes when the parents are getting old. The business that has supported the family for so long is not really working well anymore. [...] People don't want to go to the little grocery store because it's expensive. They want to go to the big grocery chain. [...]"

Imagine this: the parents lifelong investment is gradually collapsing, and the children have to think, 'What are we going to do?'

What do you think the children should do? One child might think, 'Now we've all grown up, we're mature, we'll manage, we sell the store, get rid of it; that's history. You retire mom and dad, and we'll take care of you.'

Is that filial piety?"

I thought, "It's a trick question. It sounds like it's filial piety."



[Mother Moon](#) 17th May 2012 in Gapyeong, South Korea

But I didn't say anything. [Mother](#) said,

"Well, it depends. It depends on whether the parents can feel, 'I've done what I wanted to do. I've passed on everything to my children.'

But if they are just taking it away and replacing it with something else - even though it might be better - that's not really filial piety."

Instead, you have to think as a filial son, 'I'm going to fulfill my parents' dream. I'm going to let them finish well, finish victoriously, not defeated and somehow sliding out.'

Do you understand what I mean? Even if I have a doctoral degree or whatever I am, I have to make sure my parents dream is fulfilled. Even if I think, "It's maybe a little obsolete," or "The time is over," or "You could do it better this way or that way."

At that moment I realized what [Mother](#) must have been thinking. As you know, the [True Parents](#) have many children, many capable children with Harvard education, great skills,

but actually, unfortunately, all of them - pretty much - are pursuing their own vision of what the providence should be, or life should be, and not ready to stay until the end to see the [True Parents'](#) dream fulfilled.

So it's very challenging to realize that being a filial child doesn't necessarily mean that you have better ideas than your parents. But if you do, you might have to keep them to yourself. The first thing can't be, "Mom, dad, I have a better solution."

But giving up that, you humble yourself to think,

"Okay, before I try to change anything, let me see if I can't bring this vision to a successful conclusion."

And [Mother](#) said,

"Then the second duty of the filial child is very simple: 'You have to persuade your younger brothers and

sisters to join in."

If only one son is doing that, and everyone else is doing their own thing, of course their parents can't rest, can't be happy.

She said, "And so, how is America doing in this respect?"

At that time, I was in America. And she said,

"I don't think it's doing so well. [Father](#) is not even cold in the grave, and already there are ten different ideas of what we should do next, and who should do it, and who's best."

[Mother](#) said, "That's not what I want to leave behind. I want to leave behind a situation when I go where everyone is united, everyone is ready to work together.

Yes, we may have different plans. We may have ideas that would have been fine if we'd been able to make that kind of unity."

To be continued. Part 3 coming soon.

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God And You: "With Whom I Am Well Pleased"

• November 22, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



Dr. Michael Balcomb's Copenhagen message on God and you: "We are God's sons and daughters with whom God is well pleased."

Part 1 of extracts from a sermon titled "With Whom I Am Well Pleased", 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 Copenhagen, Denmark on 10th November 2024. Slightly edited.

See [part 2 How to Be a Filial Son or Daughter](#)


"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!'" (Matthew 17:5)


We don't think of ourselves like that very often. Right?


God first says this to Jesus, when Jesus is being baptized, the interesting thing is at that moment, as far as the Bible is





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concerned, Jesus hasn't done anything. He hasn't given any sermons; he hasn't done any miracles. He hasn't turned water into wine. He hasn't fed the 5,000. He hasn't gone to the temple. He hasn't become a sacrifice. He hasn't done any of that.

It's right at the very beginning. And **God** is giving him this blessing,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

So what does Jesus say in response? What would you say in response? I know what I'd say. I'd say something like this,

"Oh, **God**, I'll do my best. I'll try to be the son in whom you can be well pleased. I'll work hard and try to live up to that great expectation."

But Jesus doesn't say that. He doesn't say anything, actually. He just receives it, just lets it come upon him. Because **God** is well pleased. Not because of what we do, not because of what we think, not even because of what we say, but simply because of who we are.

We are **God's** sons and **God's** daughters with whom **God** is well pleased. No conditions, no qualifications other than that. Not because you've been a faithful member of the church for. Not because you are a missionary working in another country. Not because you were kind to your wife this morning and made her happy. Not because of any of those things.

It's so hard for us to understand the heart of **God**, that **God** loves us just because of who we are. **True Father** used to call it the law of resemblance. Do you remember him talking about that?

We all like to see ourselves, and we like to see ourselves reflected in others. If you look at an old photograph, at least if you're like me, you want to see, "Where am I? There I am. And then, who else can I see?"



Mother Moon on stage during the Bloom Festival, in Showpalast, Munich, Germany 19th May 2024. Photo: Andranik Karagezian-Skrodzki / FFWPU

If you look at your children or your grandchildren, you like to see them because they resemble you.

I remember when **Mother** came to Munich. Did any of you go to Munich for the Bloom festival?

The day before the festival, **Mother** gave me a very hard time. She did not say, "You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

She said,

"You haven't really done well, have you, in Europe? Because we've had a mission here for 50 years, and you're telling me we are not that many members. [...] There are many countries where even to count to 100 members is difficult."

She really emphasized this point. But then, just when we were all wondering, how we could get out of the room, one of **Mother's** assistants, Wonju McDevitt, brought **Mother** her phone. And on the phone was a video from her great granddaughter, Jeon-ju. And **Mother** started watching this video. And then she just started giggling like a little girl. She said, "Oh, that's so cute!" And she watched it three or four times. Then she made us all watch it as well.

So those of you who are grandparents or parents, you'll know that when other



John the Baptist baptizes Jesus. Author: Gustave Doré (1832-1883). Public domain image. Cropped

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you know that when other people show you their grandchildren, it's not the same. Not the same as seeing your own grandchildren or your own children.

Mother was almost uncontrollably happy just to see her great granddaughter. I've never seen her like that. She was just so happy and laughing.

I thought afterwards,

"God is really trying to tell me something here: How happy **God** is with each of us."

But we don't know it. We feel awkward because there's a part of us that starts to think,

"Well, wait a minute, **God**, you can't really mean that, can you? Because look at me. I have doubts, I'm lazy, I make mistakes, I say things that I shouldn't say. I sometimes upset people, or I forget them."

I'm just thinking of all the things right now; Fumiko [his wife] will be able to add more.

We think,

"You can't love someone like me. I don't measure up to your standards."

But the point is, that doesn't matter to **God** at all. And if we hear that voice, it's really somebody else. Somebody else telling us,

"You're not worthy. Of course, you're not worthy because you don't do this, you don't do that."

But that's not true. **Father** gives us a good idea of this in his autobiography.

He says,

"So why did **God** call me? Even now, at ninety years of age, I wonder every day why **God** called me. Of all the people in the world, why did He choose me? It wasn't because I had a particularly good appearance, or outstanding character, or deep conviction. 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." (As a *Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, p54)

When we start to read it carefully and listen to what **Father's** saying – and **Mother** too; will come to that – **Father** is very transparent in *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*.

We all know that when **Father** first received the commission from Jesus, he felt,

"No, I can't do it. I'm not worthy. Find somebody else."

But gently – as far as we know – Jesus pursued him,

"No, no, you are that person! Of course, right now, at 15 years old, you are not the person you will become. But I will help you. I will raise you, I will teach you, and you will become the person able to do it."

But as we heard from the above reading, even at the age of 90, **Father** was still wondering, "Really?"

So even **Father** himself could feel this constant amazement. wonder.



Michael and Fumiko Balcomb in Malmö, Sweden 10th Nov. 2024. Photo: FFWPU



Sun Myung Moon in prayer on Wednesday 17th April 1935, when **Jesus appeared** to him. Painting by Shigeoyoshi Watanabe from 1982. Photo: FFWPU

"How could [God](#) choose me?"

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Featured image above: Dr. Michael Balcomb in Copenhagen 10th November 2024. Photo: FFWPU

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