

Who do you want to resemble?

By Rev. Ken Doo, May 1, 2016

We believe in God. So we come to church and worship God. But what do we do to meet God? Do we pray every day and offer our dedication? There was a Generation Peace Academy (GPA) Family workshop at the YMCA in Colorado last weekend. I was able to meet many children born in our faith community and was truly inspired by them. The GPA is not an easy program. They don't only go out to raise funds for a year. These children told me that they work hard in order to meet God.

The human fall severed our relationship with God. We lost God, our heavenly parent, Saints and sages have been struggling since then to meet God again. We have all been wondering about what we must do to meet God? But the fundamental question is not what we must do to meet God but what we should do to resemble Him for the Bible tells us that God created us in his image and resemblance. That is our ultimate goal.

Let us take a look at our 2020 motto: "Let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!"

My sermon today is "Who will we resemble?" But I think the answer is already out there.

The first thing the Divine Principle talks about is "Everyone is struggling to attain happiness and avoid misfortune." Each one of the 7.4 billion people living in this world have their own uniqueness. There are no two persons who are the same. But these 7.4 billion people all struggle to attain one thing and that is to attain happiness and avoid misfortune.

Before the human fall, human beings desired to resemble the creator. This is because we human beings are a unique type of creation. We have this natural desire to want to resemble a role model. Despite the fall human beings have kept this desire but that desire has been misdirected. That is why we see people who want to resemble "stars" such as Elvis...

For example, a pregnant mother has hopes that her child will grow to resemble an excellent economist, politician, lawyer, or artist. This example can be seen on the Strip. There you find people who try to impersonate Elvis Presley.

What do you think is God's hope from human beings?

God wanted to taste happiness through his creation of human beings. If you look at the Genesis 1:26-31, it says that God was extremely happy after creating mankind. I'm sure that God wanted to be able to experience the different kinds of happiness that all 7.4 billion people in this world experience. If he wanted to experience only one kind of happiness, then He would have created all humans the same with the same attributes, the same look, the same tendencies, desires...

Is there anyone in this world who does not like Elvis Presley? But just because we love him, I don't think God wanted us to try to be exactly like him.

Then who are we? We are both God's temple and his children. We are our own solely unique existence and we call this existence the begotten child.

If we are God's temple and individuals who resemble God, then surely we can be seen as a representation of God's own cell.

That's why we have this natural desire to want to resemble our creator, God.

TM gave us the motto to uphold until 2020, "Let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!" Then how are we going to resemble a God we cannot see? If God created humankind then surely He exists. But why can't we see him? For the 6K years of human history, so many people have lived and died, but aside from Adam and Eve nobody ever saw God. The Bible says that God resides in our hearts. Even Jesus said that those who see him have seen God.

It is said that God lives within us. Do you believe this? But why can't we see Him? The reason why we can't see Him is because we can't see our own selves. Is there anyone in this room who can see their own self?

I Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Then why didn't Jesus tell Philip "If you want to see God, take a look at yourself" and instead said "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)?

This is because God created human being to live together with somebody else, not so they can live in solitary. This can be seen when God created Eve. He created her after he had created Adam and seeing that Adam was lonely, It is not good for man to be alone God said. The wisdom of God seen in this part of creation is amazing. He created human being so that they could only see God through someone else. God is seen through the other, the alter ego.

When we say that we each as individuals are a temple of God, and resemble him, we are like a single puzzle piece. Thus, in order to see God, the 7.4 billion puzzle pieces must fit together and become one image. So if we want to meet the true God, we would have to meet the God within all 7.4 billion people. Only by doing so we can see him.

Let's look at this in another way. When 7.4 billion people come to me looking to find God, do you think they will all see the same image of Him? Do you think the 100 people here all see me in the same way? Each and every one of you will see Him differently.

Actually, the 7.4 billion people will see the God that they want to see through me. In other words, when I look at people and see God, that God is not their God but my God.

When I had a chance to talk to my son at YMCA in Colorado. He gave me a testimony of his fundraising experience. "One day when he was doing a fundraising competition. He diligently visited and met many people. He entered a restaurant and one young man saw my son. The young man's face looked very surprised and quickly stood up and jumped at my son. Of course my son was surprised too. The young man said to my son "hello Jesus" He thought my son was Jesus. And that young man asked my son "who you are, what are you doing" so my son introduced himself as a member of GPA. And that young man said to my son "how much do you need?" my son asked \$50. And the young man gave it him.

If Jesus spirit was traveling with my son, People would see and feel what the young man saw and felt. But only that young Christian man saw Jesus within my son. So Jesus appeared to him through my son.

We can't see God, so how do we know who my God is? This is done through human relationships.

Is the God within a gentleman who is sipping coffee in Starbucks on Las Vegas Blvd my God?

I cannot meet this God until I sit across from him and say "Hello~" and create a relationship with him just like I wouldn't know what I looked like unless or until I first look at myself in a mirror. Without creating a relationship with someone I cannot see my God through them.

Then there will probably be people who say things such as: I have never met Gandhi but I've seen God through him by reading his books. This is my reply. The books of all the significant people in the world are like the row of mirrors in a store. We can see God through the books they left behind. However, in order to see through the mirrors of everybody besides them, we need to first create relationships with them, visit their families, and see through their mirrors.

Even today, I am able to see my God through everybody here.

Sitting here today we have exceptional members who care for the poor and difficult people, I am able to see my God through them. And by seeing him, I too find determination to become someone who will help the needy among us.

We have folks here who volunteer to make delicious food for us every week. When I see these people I feel gratitude and inside of their beautiful hearts I can see God.

I start to want to resemble those folks who help clean the bathroom, and clean the sanctuary.

In contrast, when I see people who are not like that, I see my God through them telling me "No, I shouldn't be like these people!"

In Exodus 3:6 God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Why did he say he was a god of each of

them and not the God of all of them? I'm sure they were people who resembled God and so God wanted to proudly say "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Abraham takes after me, and Isaac takes after me, and Jacob takes after me! I felt that God is so proud of their God.

In order to meet God and resemble him we must know 7.4 billion people, but through TP's blessing we only need to meet 430 couples to see God. This is the 430 couple blessing activity which TPs gave us. We must not think of this as a heavy burden. This tribal activity will secure you an eternal life in both the physical and spiritual world. And God will be able to proudly proclaim, "I am this person's God." Just like God so proudly said I'm Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's God.

Also, I am sure that if you have a sincere relation with 430 couples or 860 people, then even your social life will be successful.

I was really moved from this GPA Family workshop, but what really inspired me the most was seeing the faith of the 2nd gen, children born within our faith community trying to resemble God and TP.

And another thing that surprised me was how they also wanted to resemble their parents.

My son told me "in the future, I want to get blessed to a person like my mom".

It's nice to hear that they want to resemble us.

But, we must also feel a lot of responsibility from this.

Before our 2nd gen can resemble us, we must first resemble God for there to be hope in CIG. If we fail think of all the 2nd and 3rd gen who will try to resemble us. It will be another start of a long wildness journey.

In conclusion, what must we do to resemble God? TP told us how we can resemble the God we cannot see. It is creating beautiful relationships and giving them spiritual life like mothers who gave birth, it is nurturing our spiritual children like our own physical children; it is praying for them and helping them live meaningful lives. This is the best and short way to resemble God. Meeting God is hard work. Resembling God is even harder work but it is the most rewarding work.

Brothers and sisters, do you want to meet God?
Then go find His children!

Do you want to become the true owners of Cheon Il Guk?
Then witness to God's children and nurture them!

Do you want to Resemble God?
Then practice God's unconditional love toward His Children!
And find your God through them.

Do you love God?
Then take care of His children!

Let's go out and bless 430 couples on August 19th 2016!
Let us pray.