

THE MEANING OF PURITY

The Divine Principle clearly explains that the fruit of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, that object of desire that upon being eaten caused the fall of mankind, was the sexual love of Eve and further explains that the root of sin was a misuse of this sexual love: (from Chapter 2 of the Divine Principle, Section 1.4 & 1.5, page 60-61:

What does the fruit of this tree represent? It signifies the love of Eve...What did eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil signify? When we eat something, we make it a part of ourselves. Eve was to have eaten the fruit of goodness by consummating her God-centered love...However, she ate of the fruit of evil by consummating her evil love centered on Satan...Accordingly, Eve's eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil denotes that she consummated a satanic love relationship with the angel which bound her in blood ties to him...We have learned from the above elucidation of the Bible that the root of sin was not that the first human ancestors ate a fruit, but rather that they had an illicit sexual relationship with an angel (symbolized by a serpent)."

It was to protect them from misusing love and to enable them to maintain a life of absolute sexuality morality, that God gave Adam and Eve a Commandment. The Bible verse that contains this commandment is found in the following Bible verse, from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 3: 2-3, we read:

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.

This commandment was given to Adam and Eve to prevent them from activating horizontal, sexual love outside its principled, intended boundaries and framework; and also to prevent their committing a heinous sexual mistake and activating evil, self-centered love, as happened between Lucifer and Eve and then Eve and Adam. I am aware that there are many expressions of sinfulness and unprincipled behavior that are prevalent in this fallen world, but this paper will focus on sinfulness and unprincipled behavior related to the misuse of love because it is the root of all collective, ancestral, personal and ultimately the original sin and resultant fallen nature. The reader may find that the restoration formula suggested within this paper can be applied and utilized in overcoming many addictive and unprincipled behaviors and I would suggest they do so. The scope of this paper, though, is necessarily focused on problems related to the misuse of love and an assessment of purity that includes character and spiritual-self maturation accomplished according to Heavenly Laws and mandates related to love and righteousness as well as disciplined and controlled sexual practices. I will approach the issue of purity by combining/blending my focus on two crucial aspects as played out in human relationships and society. The first is to emphasize the ideal model of purity grounded on spiritual growth and Heavenly order and laws. The second is to examine aspects of the misuse of love which undermine purity including premature relationships, unprincipled relationships and fallen and

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evil relationships grounded on self-centered self-firstness and the four fallen natures (not seeing from God's point of view, leaving proper position, reversal of dominion and multiplication of evil).

From words from our True Father, we can understand that living a life of spiritual and sexual purity is a crucial requirement and absolute foundation that must be maintained before the goal of fulfilling the three Blessings and creating an ideal family and ultimately the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and in the Spirit World can to be accomplished. (From Rev. Sun Myung Moon's speech given at the Forty-seventh True Children's Day, November 21, 2006):

Ladies and gentlemen, it was necessary for Adam and Eve to establish a model ideal family of peace. God, the absolute being, created human beings as His children in order to instill in them absolute values on the basis of an absolute standard. Thus, human beings must follow the way of that absolute standard in keeping with the demands of the heavenly path. This means we must follow our destined life course in order to attend God, the absolute being, as our Parent. In other words, for people to perfect themselves in resemblance of God and obtain the stature of people of character who can be called sons and daughters of the absolute being, they must follow the path based on the absolute standard God has determined. The essence of this path is the standard of absolute sexual purity.

The first stage is maintaining absolute sexual purity prior to getting married. After we are born, we go through a process of growth. We pass through infancy and childhood in a very safe and secure environment embraced in our parents' love and protection. We then enter the time of adolescence, which signals the start of a new and dynamic life as we forge relationships on a totally new level with those around us, as well as with all things of creation. This is the moment when we begin to travel the path to becoming an absolute human being—internally, through the perfection of our character, and externally, by reaching adulthood. Yet, at this time there is an absolute requirement that people must fulfill, no matter who they are. This is the requirement of maintaining their purity, which is the model of absolute sexual morality for human beings. God gave it to His children as their destined responsibility and duty, to be carried out in order to fulfill the ideal of creation. This heavenly path is thus the way toward perfecting the model of absoluteness in conjugal love. What was the single word, the one and only commandment God gave to Adam and Eve, the first ancestors, upon their creation? It was the commandment and blessing to maintain an absolute standard of sexual purity until God's approval of their marriage. We find the basis for this in the Bible passage that indicates that Adam and Eve would surely die on the day they ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. If they had refrained from eating and observed Heaven's commandment, they would have perfected their character and, as co-creators, stood with God, the Creator, as His equals. Furthermore, they would have taken dominion over the creation and become the lords of the universe enjoying eternal and ideal happiness.

It was God's blessing that He told them to preserve their purity so that they could wed as His true children through His Marriage Blessing, become true husband and wife, become true parents and give birth to true children. This knowledge deepens our understanding of

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this commandment. It is connected with the principle of absoluteness in conjugal love, which is a principle of God's creation. The profound truth within God's commandment has lain hidden throughout history: human beings must inherit and live by a model absolute sexual purity that is intrinsic to God's ideal for creation. This is so that they might perfect their individuality as God's children and establish themselves as lords of creation.

Second is the model of absoluteness in the love of husband and wife. More precious than life itself, this is the heavenly law of absolute fidelity. Husband and wife are eternal partners given to each other by Heaven. Through having children, they become the co-creators of true love, true life and true lineage, and the origin of that which is absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal. This is because it is a heavenly principle that one person cannot give birth to a child by him- or herself, even in a thousand years. How can people who preserve their purity before marriage, and whom God binds together in a pure marriage as husband and wife, deviate from the way of Heaven and go astray, following a wrong path? We human beings are different from animals; if they understand God's purpose in creating them as His children, they will realize that the wrong path is one of unimaginable betrayal and defiance of the Creator; it is a path of self-destruction along which they dig their own graves. Resulting from the human Fall, this path falls outside the realm of the ideal of creation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the absoluteness of conjugal love is the greatest blessing that Heaven has bestowed on humankind. Without adhering to the principle of absolute sexual purity, the path to the perfection of one's character and spiritual maturity is closed. Furthermore, without securing the foundation of absolute sexual morality within a true family of perfected individuals, it is impossible for God to manifest with dignity as the incarnate God of character. In order for God, the absolute being, to have direct dominion over our lives and to live and share joy with us, we who were created as His object partners and children must assume the form of a perfected family based on the standard of absolute sexual ethics, as God intended. Only within the boundaries of a family upholding absolute sexual morality is it possible to create relationships based on an ideal model of sexual ethics for life as it should originally have existed. This life includes the three-generational realm of grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. Please understand clearly that God's eternal life and a person's eternal life are possible only on this foundation.

Therefore, if Adam and Eve had achieved individual perfection—the perfection of character—by upholding the principles of absolute sexual purity, in accordance with God's will, and then entered into conjugal relations through His Blessing, they would have attained complete oneness with Him. God would have dwelt within their union. Their children also would have been linked to this holy order of love, enjoying a direct relationship with God as their parent. In other words, the marriage of the perfected Adam and Eve based on absolute purity in conjugal love, would have been God's own marriage. God is forever God, but at the same time Adam and Eve were to have become His incarnations. They would have become God's body. God would have settled inside their

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minds and hearts to become the True Parent of humankind in both the spiritual and physical worlds, on the foundation of absoluteness in conjugal love.

From the perspective of the Principle of Creation, the advice against multiple horizontal and what often turns into exclusive friendships with someone of the opposite sex is important. From True Father's 2006 speech on "The Family Rooted in Absolute Sexual Ethics" we can understand that the marriage Blessing relationship is totally exclusive and is the place where deep, eternal and strong sexual, emotional, intellectual and heartistic horizontal bonding occurs within the couple. Your spouse should be your best friend, your parent, your lover, your child and your true brother/sister. This unique horizontal and monogamous relationship, which characterizes a Blessed couple, is the only *relationship of its kind which is allowed, approved and receives God's Blessing*. This does not preclude altruistic outpourings from Blessed couples whereby they serve and care for humankind, their brothers and sisters under God and True Parents. However, the internal realm, dynamic and domain of the Blessed couple is private, protected and necessarily exclusive. We also should, however, understand that, until that permission is given, a close, one-on-one emotional connection, including friendships, between any man and woman *is not allowed*. The Divine Principle clearly teaches about the period of growth, called the three stages of growth, which must be passed through on the path to spiritual perfection. During that time of growth and until permission is given by God to enter into a Blessed couple hood, close, one-on-one friendships or exclusive relationships would be premature, in relationship to one's future spouse, and never, ever allowed to be duplicated or entered into with any other.

Prior to the establishment of such a precious relationship within their Blessed couple, what should every person be concerned with? Why, with the determined and focused effort to fulfill the first blessing; thus with all of our hearts, minds and souls we must make heroic efforts to become mature sons and daughters of God by controlling our bodies with our original minds and becoming truly mature, responsible, loving individuals who are one with Him and embody God's Heart. So, in the time period after puberty and before our marriage Blessing, we are not allowed according to Heavenly Law, to establish horizontal, emotional and intellectual relationships and friendships *with the opposite sex*, EVER. Instead, we need to prepare ourselves for that future exclusivity by focusing on God and waiting for His permission. Knowledge of this behavior and law is already imprinted upon our original mind and we need to be clear about the ideal model of behavior, ethics and morality related to the family and true love. This Heavenly Law is based on the principle of the Three Blessings, where the Second Blessing of conjugal love – and this means heartistic and emotional as well as physical love- is preceded by the First Blessing where our primary concern is vertical, being focused on becoming mature sons and daughters who can become one with God.

In addition to the importance of allowing Heaven's principles related to human growth and relationships to emerge, there is also the very real problem of humanity's propensity to act in an unprincipled, evil and sinful manner empowered by fallen nature and the fallen model of behavior. Since the misuse of love also factors very strongly in humanity's fallen past, guidelines related to love within and between human relationships must also be seriously dealt with. Related to this, I found some specific guidance from our True Father in a question and answer

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session given in 1965. This is from a document entitled –“The Master Speaks on Satan, The Fall, and Evil”

“Because the power of love was so strong, God had warned that Adam and Eve not to touch one another. Don’t even look at the knowledge of the tree of good and evil. It is too tempting. This means, don’t even contact the opposite sex until you are allowed to do it. If you contact, you are tempted. If you go to a certain point, you can’t trust yourself not to go farther. So don’t start. On this matter, the outlook is very strict. We are all human beings and we know how tempting love can be. We do not even like to have men and women going somewhere together, because we know that humans are not strong. This may be a great problem in America, but it is essential. Never trust yourself too much. My dispensation is to establish a new lineage of pure blood.”

Question: What exactly was God referring to when he told Adam and Eve not to eat forbidden fruit? What did He actually say?

Answer: When God told Adam not to eat of the forbidden fruit, Lucifer heard it too. God would not have told them, “Don’t eat the fruit of knowledge...” as the Bible says. This is only a poetic expression. If I tell you exactly what they were told, it would not be good. This information is not written anywhere, and if I say it now what I say will spread. Even though God told them fairly clearly, Adam and Eve did not take it seriously. God said, “Don’t respond to Lucifer’s temptation. Don’t love him.” But those things did not sound serious to them. When one is too young and is not aware of things, some commands do not make sense. You cannot tell things too early. But the angel knew.

Based on guidance from True Father like the above and my own life experience, my opinion is that the boundary line of permissible activity between a man and a woman both at the time prior to the fall, in today’s fallen world and even an ideal society, must naturally be guided by very strict norms and conventions. The reason for this strictness is that the power to deviate from God’s principle related to love is very strong – stronger than the principle alone. Humans are weak for this type of influence because they are designed to be totally attracted to love. The Principle explains this in Chapter 2, Section 3.1, page 65-66:

“Human beings are created through the Principle, and they are meant to live according to the way of the Principle. Therefore, it cannot be that the force inherent in the Principle would induce a person to deviate from the way of the Principle and cause him to fall...But if some stronger force from a different direction and with an unprincipled purpose collides with the, they will surely fall. The force which is stronger than the force of the Principle is none other than the power of love. While human beings are in the state of immaturity, it is possible that the power of unprincipled love can induce them to fall.

Or put in another way, from the Divine Principle in Chapter 2, Section 3.2, page 66:

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Why did God nurture the faith of Adam and Eve by giving them the commandment, “Do not eat of the fruit”? In their immature state, Adam and Eve could not be directly governed by God through love. Because the power of love is stronger than the power of the Principle, God foresaw that if they ever formed a common base with the Archangel, there was a possibility that they could succumb to the power of deviant, unprincipled love and fall. To prevent this, God gave Adam and Eve the commandment that forbade them from relating with the Archangel in this way (my emphasis).

In my estimation, the externally process of the fall and supra principled behavior depended on three key elements – freedom, opportunity and temptation. If anyone of these three elements is removed, then the process of the fall does not develop. This dynamic can be likened to the 3 elements that are necessary for combustion – fuel, air and the igniter. If any one of these three elements is removed, there can be no fire. Likewise, I think, it was and is with the fall. Now, the element of freedom was given by God and is an intrinsic element in the realm of the indirect and direct dominion. This then could not be removed and taken away from the dynamic. The temptation could have been avoided IF the Archangel had been able to be faithful to God’s Law – but God knew that there was a possibility that Lucifer would misbehave. The only other part of this dynamic then, is the component of opportunity. To me, this is what the guideline to not touch is pointing to. Take away the opportunity for the power of give and take, especially stemming from selfishness, to develop and the fall certainly could have been and currently can be avoided. Essentially, if any human being enters into give and take action that could develop or draw that power of love and especially evil love into it (opportunity), it is most probable that the result would be unprincipled and even fallen activity. Thus types of give and take action such as casual horizontal give and take activity between immature boys and girls or men and women is suspect because it so easily leads to emotional, heartistic, romantic and then ultimately sexual give and take.

Of course, we can and should cultivate wonderful friendships with our parents and siblings as well as extended family relationships and extra family relationships with those of our own gender. But we need to be extremely careful in relationships with those of the opposite gender. We can certainly be friendly, respectful, cordial, gracious, benevolent, formal (and the ballroom dance ministry can certainly fit here) and professional in our contacts with those of the opposite gender but those relationships can never be allowed to escalate beyond such a limited dynamic. This certainly does not preclude true altruistic behavior and attitudes being extended to all we interact with, but the personal, emotional bonding aspect must be severely limited. The main point that I wish to convey is that the ethics, morality, norms and culture of a God centered democratic society need to accommodate a cooperative and yet strict convention between opposite gendered individuals. I don’t advocate utilizing a model for social life where women must be shut away from the general flow of relationships in the public domain in order for a society to maintain a moral order. On the contrary, both women and men must be allowed to fulfill their geniuses and contribute their talents for the sake of humanity’s advancement in a free, democratic and prosperous society. But in a society where the sacred and secular are blended, the internal strictness or ethics between men and women must be a norm and convention that is predominant at the cultural level. Surely, if the presence of God pervades all relationships and each person’s heart, the propensity to misuse love and advance self-centered behavior, to sin against God and our brothers and sister, must surely fade and instead a public

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will to advance and follow Heavenly order and guidelines must prevail– reinforcing an orderly convention on a cultural and social level. Thus, I would suggest that in a Godly world the social expression of interrelations between men and women would continue to be strictly followed, but the motivation to do so would flow quite naturally from each person’s original mind and heart due to their bonding with God.

Some guidelines in relationship to this order requires that we should be very careful to never be alone with someone of the opposite gender who is not our relative and that we especially avoid any physical contact which goes beyond the very minimum (even one-on-one meetings with your opposite gender boss should be conducted with the door open and never outside the work environment). Why would this be the case? Within the family, the parents and their siblings function as a harmonizing point between siblings and cousins. Thus, it is rare to find cases of incest within that dynamic. Though, theoretically, all humanity are brothers and sisters under God, the original mind and heart in men and women is often disconnected from the mind and heart of God and thus the ability of the human mind to discipline and control the body and its actions is, at this point in humanity’s restoration, severely limited. Bluntly, at this point in the development of a Godly society, humanity is extremely immature and thus cannot be trusted to naturally act according to the Will of Heaven. Therefore, in situations that require one-on-one interactions, strict rules/guidelines that utilize spiritual wisdom and techniques arrived at through hard gained experience must be followed, such as the principle of the triad. Another valuable guideline is that individuals need to be very transparent in their interactive connections by sharing the situation/contents/specifics and receiving advice and guidance from parents, spouse and even adult children. Some would suggest that men and women should avoid handshakes and hugs. This is somewhat tough in a culture where these practices are common, but be careful and aware that what may seem to be harmless is not always so. (One sidebar: due to the extensive historical perversion of love, we need to even be vigilant against evil behavior that can emerge between “trusted” family members – but that is another discussion and, at this point, I only mention the problem as a point of caution related to the way of restoration).

The dating culture which is so prevalent in the Western culture is absolutely not based on such a Heavenly Law, morality or ethic. In addition it is based on the pattern of the fall where Lucifer initiated a horizontal and self-centered relationship with Eve, who was not and was never to be, his spouse; without the permission of God and outside the marriage Blessing relationship. Since that time, relationships initiated by Lucifer type men and fallen Eve type women are pervasive and frequently dominate and characterize relationships between men and women. So guidelines to block this kind of give and take from starting and thus remove the element of opportunity would include no dating or cross-gender friendships – even group dates (multiple pairs out together) or activities are problematic because such activities play into the component of opportunity and thus are dangerous. Unfortunately it is a dominant pattern in our current society and thus looks normal and attractive from the outside. From the outset these activities look innocent but they can be the beginning point of the perception of the opposite sex from a horizontal and plurality perspective - even though, in the beginning it may not be characterized by a one-on-one characteristic. Remember, the power of immature and especially evil love can quickly build and tap into our basic desire to be loved. As immortalized in the song by Johnny Lee Looking for Love(in all the wrong places): “I was looking for love in all the wrong places. Looking for love in too many faces. Searching their eyes, looking for traces of what I'm

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dreaming of". I suspect that the lists of do's and don'ts could be much more extensive, and probably should be, but I think you get the idea. As Rev. Sudo use to say in his workshop lectures on the Fall, "Nip it in the Bud".

The above types of guidance would be likened to the Biblical guideline of "don't even touch the fruit". I could also explain it in the following way - don't even start to have an exclusive, horizontal, cross-gender give and take, friendship, relationship, etc. outside of your family and then ultimately a Blessed Marriage, starting with puberty and continuing until the end of your life on this earth! I am also referring to activity that would mimic the pattern of the fall, such as any type of give and take between an older or more sexually mature man or woman towards a less mature person of the opposite sex. The reason why this second type of relationship is so dangerous is because it not only pulls the power of deviant love with it but it also brings the couple into the arena and realm of Satan's triumph and dominion. By doing so, they put themselves at the mercy of Satan and his legions who have a vested interest in carrying on or continuing the impetus or pattern of fallen history. I once used the example of the movie trilogy "The Matrix" to illustrate this phenomenon. In the Matrix, the security system of the Matrix would place certain gate-keepers at key points of exit from the Matrix. They would look like normal human beings – drunks, old men, young virile men or beautiful women but when someone from the rebellion approached the exit point they were guarding, these gatekeepers would be taken over by the evil Mr. Smith. Likewise, when a human being enters into improper and unprincipled horizontal give and take, no matter how innocent it may start, the man involved suddenly "becomes" or acts in the manner of the fallen Archangel or the woman involved suddenly "becomes" or acts in the manner of fallen Eve. More than likely, they are offering a base for the additional influence of fallen spiritual beings – human or angelic. The Bible is quite insightful when it says that we are fighting powers and principalities, especially in this arena. I would refer to the Book of Ephesians 6: 10-20:

Therefore take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; beside all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my moth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

What are some of the problems that are associated with the dating culture? Well, it trains men and women to view all others of the opposite gender as part of a pool of potential sexual partners and develops a shopping mentality whereby each individual plays the field until they find Mr. or Miss. Right, totally oblivious to the searcher's preparedness and spiritual maturity. The focus is on finding the right person rather than being the right person who can contribute their good character and love to a fulfilling partnership. And since it is often coupled with sexual looseness, tremendous emotional scars and heart damage are pervasive, though even just emotional bonding done outside of the exclusivity principle imprints upon and causes damage to our spirit because

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we are so vulnerable in relationship to all things of the heart. What's wrong with this approach? First, it cultivates the unprincipled, irresponsible idea that a person can have many, many exclusive partners in a revolving door type model, thereby preparing and training them for constant break-ups and divorce rather than fidelity and exclusive faithfulness. This serial dating can and usually does lead to a prevalent pattern of promiscuousness, adultery, infidelity and philandering. An indicator and contributor to this terrible state of affairs is the prevalence of the cultural phenomenon of pornography currently utilized by both men and women. The pornography industry tells the viewer that every man and woman, of any age, can be their personal sexual object and source of ultimate and ideal individual sexual gratification. The pornography industry is in fact perpetrating the greatest lie related to the realm of love and sexuality. It is promoting putrid garbage lust instead of holy, honorable love, which can only be achieved through mutual satisfaction grounded in absolute concern for the partner.

Second, the dating approach totally removes the perspective that the one who should find a person's eternal partner should be God and not themselves. It diverts a person from seeking God's choice for their partner and replaces it with each individual's efforts to find their eternal spouse *on their own, oblivious to their own state of preparedness*. Since the focus in this process sits squarely on the individual and what they want and can get from the relationship, a base is also made for fallen elements to enter into the process since the fall was essentially grounded on selfishness and individual gratification. When relationships are initiated and degraded to this level of self-firstness, they tend to become extreme dysfunctional and present no basis where true love cannot develop because true love is all about living and sacrificing for the sake of the other, upon each partner thinking what they can give as opposed to a person looking for what he or she can selfishly gain from their relationships. So, the worst expression of the dating culture can undermine and lead humankind to the point where true love can never be found or achieved because it does not allow individuals to train themselves for horizontal exclusivity, takes God's will out of the picture and has the potential to result in dysfunctional relationships where neither partner knows how to invest in, be responsible for and to sacrifice for the other through serving their partners, and thereby invest in the process of achieving an enduring love. Those individuals whose original nature are strong and who enter the dating process with tunnel vision, purposively seeking for a mutually beneficial exclusive partnership may be able to break the chain of serial dating, but I would suggest that even they do not escape the dating process totally unscathed. I would assert that all their past broken relationships can and do leave emotional scars that take time to heal and carry the potential to interfere with their current long-term, exclusive relationship. It is also possible that old relationships will literally reassert themselves and the ghosts of past relations will try to undermine and even test the strength of their former partner's exclusive bonding. A good mantra to remember is that the relationship with the ONE is undermined through experiences with the MANY.

I'm sure you're wondering how to find that exclusive partner, when the time is right and God has approved, if the methodology of dating is out. Since the genesis of the search for the exclusive partner is at its core should be the search for God's choice and Will, then a methodology modeled after a dialog with God is the best approach. Since God figuratively is in a vertical relationship with humankind and is also our Heavenly Parent, consulting with and seeking the recommendation or matching of someone in the parental position concerned with God's viewpoint and Will is the best. This could be Blessed couples who are the biological parent of

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the person seeking a matching or trained spiritual parents, trained matching advisors or trained pastors for those new to this approach without the benefit of biological parents adept, spiritually prepared and commissioned – the key point being that the recommendation for a matching must be approached from a spiritual perspective and not to enhance the individual or their family's possessions, money, status or power. The other part of the God/humankind dialog to be modeled relates to humankind fulfilling their portion of responsibility. This means that the one seeking their exclusive partner through a vertical matching, has to determine whether they agree the recommendation received is indeed God's will and also deciding honestly whether they can fulfill their responsibility to make the matching successful, which requires extensive prayer and soul searching on the part of both partners. This phase is so important because historically, the problem in accomplishing God's will has always rested with humankind's failure to fulfill their 5% responsibility.

I need to speak to those of you reading this article whose past relationship experience is entrenched in the dating and cross-gender exclusive friendship experiences. If the words of guidance found within this article resonate with your original mind and you are determined to change your behavior and lifestyle, I must caution you that undoing your historical relationship muddle will not be so easy. For those of you for whom serial dating and cross gender relationships/friendships have become a philandering habit and way of life, you will most likely have to deal with feelings akin to emotional withdrawal, loneliness, awkwardness, and self-accusation as you conjure up expectations that those men or women you use to so freely interact with will judge you as being cold, unfeeling and antisocial. I must remind you that in choosing to walk this new way of life, you are going against the current relationship convention but remember that the current relationship convention is not based on God's original purpose for the human social experience. You are also choosing to go against a way of life that comforted you on some limited level. At these times, it is good to remember that your earlier (or current) friends, companions and sometimes lovers are not responsible for leading you astray but that you bear the majority responsibility because in following an unprincipled lifestyle you consciously ignored the mandates of your original nature and Heavenly law which certainly stunted your spiritual growth, especially those of you who knew the contents of Divine Principle, especially the Principle of Creation and the Principle of the Fall.

It is also good to reflect on whose good opinion you value most, God's or those spiritually immature individuals that you incorrectly engaged with. It will take a lot of courage and discipline on your part to allow your original mind to direct and control your behavior, enabling you to challenge all past, present and future limited, unprincipled and especially sinful behavior. To do so, you will need a strong determination to live and strive for the ideal instead of settling for more immediate gratification. In addition, since satan is used to having you follow his lifestyle, morality, ethics and behavior, he will mercilessly and relentlessly persecute, pursue and attempt to pull you back to your past unprincipled lifestyle, especially sending many tempters/temptresses your way. That also means those with whom you have already have a history of exclusive friendships or relationships will try their utmost to reestablish the past patterns of relationships with you that you mutually enjoyed. These tests and phenomenon will repeat themselves incessantly until you have prevailed in your quest to do the right thing every time, no matter the nature or intensity of tests and attacks that are thrown at you. Remember that you are embarking on a restoration course, whereby all of your past mistakes will continuously

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recycle and re-emerge and that this time around you are responsible to restore those mistakes by not engaging in limited, unprincipled and especially sinful behavior. Also your determination and practice will be continually done and redone every day until you have solidified a victorious record (think of the movie "Groundhog Day"). Even at the point where righteousness has become your habit and way of life, you can never let your guard down, because the problem of backsliding is very real. Please be comforted that, based on continuous victory, this restoration path will straighten and you will move past the initial mine field. Also be comforted that the end goal is so very much worth it. Your efforts to pioneer a new convention and norm will surely benefit those who follow after you in the great work of building a Godly society and way of life.

There is also another problem that must be addressed. I must emphasize that just being aware of boundaries or guidelines based on Heavenly Law and the laws related to True Love is often not enough to deter humanity from pursuing an unprincipled convention or even the way of the fall. With spiritually immature people, the problem often comes, as so wisely observed by my daughter, in that they tend to have an overabundance of emotion without a counterbalancing abundance of wisdom. Or they are strongly in touch with their own feelings and desire for love but are unable see the bigger and longer term picture and to view their real situation from God's point of view. This could be likened to their following what they think to be right and their self-gratifying desires rather than their original mind and heart. If you couple the natural attraction to love with the impetus towards independent action and resistance to external control, a powerful drive that I believe comes from our original mind's mandate to fulfill our portion of responsibility, the situation can quickly turn into a tinderbox ready to explode. In order to allow themselves to pursue even deviant love and their own independent way and avoid detection, individuals can become very deceptive, choosing to conceal and lie about their activities to avoid being diverted from them. This tendency towards independence and the desire to seek love should be a good characteristic but if it is turned away from God's Will, in the direction of my own will, then the result can be a tendency to pursue the misguided or confused direction and lesser good or even evil with gusto. Given this scenario, though a person who is headed for trouble would be able to get through a temptation by following strict guidelines as embodied in the commandment, they probably won't remember them, take those warnings seriously or will even choose to block and attack this Godly advice even though the storm clouds may be looming. To put it bluntly, they may know what is right to do but they honestly won't care and will consciously choose to ignore or will actively discount and criticize those pearls of wisdom. "That's it" they may say and quickly run away or close their ears, mind and heart. They may even have the blind arrogance to think that such guidelines don't apply to them or that they can handle any situation without being negatively influenced by that situation and thus don't have to listen to what they consider silly, irrelevant, unenlightened, ignorant, outdated and old fashion morality.

I am sure that during their journey down the slippery slope to hell, their subconscious would be screaming out to them to stop but more than likely they will be in complete blind denial, choosing to ignore their God given sense until it is too late. Usually when someone is "going to the dark side" things can get very grey and for various reasons they tend to isolate themselves from mature folks or wise directives and rely upon their own ideas and perceptions (and probably low spiritual influence since the isolated individual is more of an easy target and prey) and the prevailing morality gleaned from Satan's world— a dangerous situation indeed. Another

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pattern that could emerge would be an attraction to the horizontal morality and prevailing cultural ethics (or lack thereof) coupled with a desire to gain approval from their peer group rather than from a vertical center point. I believe that “touching” the realm of the fall also tends to draw upon a person an environment of spiritual confusion with the accompanying tendency to get stuck in the selfish, me-firstness worldview that ultimately leaves them vulnerable to the coming temptation (and believe me, it will come). Actually, the scenario of confusion that surrounds a time of temptation to engage in unprincipled behavior has its root in the fall and continues to this day and both young and old are vulnerable to it. Since this was the pattern that existed at the time of the fall, it is not surprising that a similar scenario could occur in the lives of humanity, who are part of, immersed in or, as may be the case of blessed couples and their issue, surrounded by the lineage and culture that emerged due to that original fall. Of course, such an experience should be clearly seen as a major test and obstacle that by all means must be triumphed over. But, if the person being tested is just caught in their limited, small minded and self-focused realm of perception and in the desire for immediate happiness no matter the cost, then the tendency will be for them to repeat the process of the fall and the lifestyle that emerged due to it rather than prevailing against it. For example, in Chapter 3 of the Divine Principle (Eschatology), Section 4.2, page 101, we find the following description of the last days:

“The era when the paths of these good and evil sovereignties intersect is the Last Days. This is also the time when Adam and Eve’s fall from the top of the growth stage will be restored through indemnity. All people in this era will suffer through great ideological confusion, much as the first human ancestors at the point of their temptation were utterly confused as to whom they should obey and what should guide their actions.”

Since the scenario of the fall and to repeat unprincipled behavior tends to clone and be repeated, confusion is bound to prevail in the lives of immature human beings, especially during times of temptation from without or within. In addition to this, there is a deeper pattern that will manifest itself in the lives of human beings during their growing period. This is the tendency of the immature to not grasp the heart, mind and wisdom of God while they are in the indirect dominion – that realm prior to the realm of perfection. Or put in another way, we tend to “not get it” or to be dense and heartistically blind, to not see or understand our situation from God’s Point of View. This is not only a characteristic of humanity’s fallen nature; it is also a characteristic of an emotionally immature human being. This is the deeper meaning of the sentence from the Divine Principle in Chapter 2, Section 3.2, page 66, “In their immature state, Adam and Eve could not be directly governed by God through love.” In the Question and Answer session from 1965, True Father expanded on this concept:

Question: What do you mean by “control human love”?

Answer: During the time when children are growing, they do not know love. These days, children see through TV and through parents, they see the love affair before they really mature and sense by themselves. In Adam and Eve’s case, they had nothing to see. They did not know about sexual love. As long as they didn’t know anything about it, God could not teach them. God had to wait until they matured and knew something about it before they could come under His Direct Dominion. Until that time, God could not tell them, “Don’t do this. Don’t have a sexual relationship with Lucifer”. Through natural

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growth and development, they would have matured and learned to know of love. Then God could have blessed them in marriage. They were just to grow naturally, and when they reached the point when they came to know one another, then God wanted to bless them. It is different from the state of children today. They know things before they actually mature. So Direct Dominion means direct control of their love by His love. In all other things, God could give them a direct command, but not about love relationships. Lucifer knew about sexual love before Adam and Eve were aware of it. He was not told this directly, but knew it in his heart.”

Well, to return to the question of how to resist or overcome habits of unprincipled and evil behavior. I don't mean to imply that there is no hope and that all humanity will continuously falter and fall during their growing period. But the question remains - what must we do to avoid the mines in the minefield or falling into the pitfalls along the path of life. How do we avoid being ensnared by the Devil and ending up in or staying in Hell? The question succinctly put is how do we develop the spiritual power to resist, restore or both? The answer to both questions is that we need to know the truth but we also need to possess the core character to substantiate that wisdom. There is, of course, the option of avoiding temptation altogether by following the commandment and thus removing the dynamic of opportunity. This is a very good solution and is an approach that was utilized by God with Adam and Eve. There is, however, another solution that I believe needs to be developed and that couples very well with the need for strict guidelines. I have come to the conclusion that as well as having strict guidelines in their lives and clear knowledge of the proper way of life, all people need to establish their own strong belief in and relationship with God. To put it another way, they need to develop Faith. It is then up to each person to apply this faith to the realm of the Word of God, such as Principle of Creation and the Principle of the Fall, and to cultivate a heartistic commitment to leaning and living the lessons imparted by those Words of Heavenly Law, morality and ethics. In other words, the Word of God must matter to you; it must be given your utmost respect, adoration and appreciation. Those strict guidelines that might have at one time been seen as bothersome or meddling must instead be exalted, appreciated and followed. My point is that for good advice to be followed, it needs to be validated from within. If a person has internalized their faith and has a strong and vivid connection to God, they are more likely to seek, listen to, have absolute faith in and follow Heavenly advice and God's Words and thereby avoid evil action. The Divine Principle explains this in Chapter 2, section 3.2, pages 66-67:

Because the power of love is stronger than the power of the Principle, God foresaw that if they ever formed a common base with the Archangel, there was a possibility that they could succumb to the power of deviant, unprincipled love and fall. To prevent this, God gave Adam and Eve the commandment that forbade them from relating with the Archangel in this way. No matter how powerful the unprincipled love of the Archangel might be, had Adam and Eve adhered to God's commandment, forming a common base with God and engaging in give and take with Him and no other, the power of the Archangel's unprincipled love would not have affected them and they would never have fallen.

So the formula would read like this: Word of God + Faith in that Word = Method to resist the temptation and power of deviant & unprincipled love. Thus a crucial pattern we need to follow

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to avoid following an unprincipled lifestyle and even the fall is to possess a vital and vivid connection to God and faith in His Words. We must absolutely trust and have faith in His Words from the depth of our soul, original mind and heart and allow ourselves to be governed by and be object to them.

In addition, at the same time Adam and Eve were avoiding the fall, they should have been working on growing their spiritual lives. It would make sense that the closer to perfection Adam and Eve got, the easier it would have been for them to see with God's eyes and heart. To apply this scenario in our lives, we need to apply the Principle and practice the principles of spiritual growth on a daily basis. By our doing good works centered on God's Word, studying God's Words, developing a vital and vivid relationship with God through utilizing pray, participating in good public works, attending church, tithing, practicing a vertically based life-style and by setting indemnity conditions and even more so participating in living indemnity conditions we can divest ourselves of distortions in our spiritual self and gain the good vitality elements needed to hasten our advance towards perfection. By living a public lifestyle (living for the sake of others, connecting to God's Providence) we can also make conditions to separate from Satan and elevate our spirit and thus come closer to God. This is a proactive approach as opposed to a reactive/defensive approach. This is the meaning of Chapter 4:8-10 from the Book of Philippians:

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.”

There is another pattern of behavior that I would like to introduce at this point. This is the pattern of behavior that was not utilized by Adam and Eve and contributed to their downfall. When disaster, war, or confusion reigns around you and cannot be avoided, then you need a strategy and tactic to survive those circumstances and be victorious. Remember that Adam and Eve knew God and had faith in God and they also knew the commandment. One thing they neglected to do during the time of the temptation was *to continually check-in with God, especially when the atmosphere and environment around them was getting confused*. I am therefore giving you a mandate to pray and talk with God, to seek for God's guidance through His word recorded in True Father's speeches and the Divine Principle, to seek the internal guidance of others whom you trust to speak God's words and to listen to your original mind and heart continually during your restoration journey ALL THE TIME, but especially in times of spiritual confusion. And practice this lifestyle in both the great and the seemingly mundane (this is a “don't forget to cut the pigeon and dove” thing). Do not walk this path blindly and tossed about by the circumstances of utter confusion that will certainly constantly surround you. If you earnestly seek for God and His Will, with all of your focus and heart, He must and will answer your desperate plea. True Father introduced this concept during the Question and Answer session in 1965.

“ Question: Adam and Eve were told not to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Where they told in the same way in which our Master was told the Divine Principle,

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by having an even conscience—that is, on a level---and then establishing a vertical contact with God. If not, then how were they told? They were in the Indirect Dominion; and God did not tell them directly, did He?

Answer: The 90 degree angle was not necessary for Adam. It is only necessary for us because we are under satanic domination, so we have to have an even conscience to receive God's thought. It did not apply to Adam. The command not to eat of the fruit was given to Adam by God directly. It did not violate the Indirect Dominion. The Direct Dominion of God implies the Direct Dominion of Man's love by God. Apart from this love, God could teach them directly, even in their Growth Stage. *He could give the command directly, but He could not interfere or have dominion over Adam and Eve's love directly. If Adam and Eve had asked God whether they should respond to Lucifer, then God could have told them directly* (my emphasis). When I said that I make a condition beforehand, I mean that I always ask God if it is all right to offer my offering. Then God is responsible to answer. But Adam and Eve did not ask God. So in the indirect dominion, if you ask God, He has to tell you. But God cannot control human love. That happens only in the Direct Dominion."

My main theme in this presentation is on the dynamic and struggle related to defining and achieving purity seen from a broad, spiritual perspective, and Godliness in each of our lives. The task of achieving and maintaining purity is so crucial because it is not until the last remnants of the fall including unprincipled behavior, evil and sin are eradicated in an individual and he or she goes forward to grow in the way God intended Adam and Eve to grow, that God's Purpose of Creation and the establishment of His Kingdom, the realm of the sacred social, can be realized. It is precisely because the mandate to rid the world of every aspect of sin is so central to God's Providence, all efforts to advance that mandate occur in such a battleground between the forces of good and the forces of evil. It is paramount that we enter into this spiritual battleground with effective weapons and armor and equip ourselves with the best strategy and tactics available. To not do this is naïve, foolhardy, shortsighted and can end with disastrous results. You can be sure that the satanic forces are well equipped and professional in advancing their cause. Those of us wishing to pioneer a Godly world need to be even better equipped and trained than those forces of evil. Do not be dismayed, but rather express a spirit of gratitude and offer a heartfelt hallelujah! We have the ultimate secret weapon; we are so fortunate to be living in the era of the True Parents, who for the first time in history can offer a way out of hell and into Heaven. True Parents represent a beacon of hope, a real, tried and tested pattern of victory and a new root and lineage for humanity to engraft onto and inherit. So though the way brought by God through the True Parents is steep and rocky and wrought with difficulty, this restoration course out of hell is nonetheless an expression of the grace and love of God. My purpose in sharing the preceding thoughts and insights in this paper is to offer support, tools and encouragement to each of you during your journey on your personal path of restoration, in your efforts to help others on their path of restoration and your efforts to contribute to God's providential campaign which is actively unfolding during this cross-roads time in history. God Bless and Keep you always in His care and may you also remember to continually comfort His Heart.