



Angelic DNA

by Rev D. Michael Hentrich

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You sometimes wonder why you are so intrigued by angels and their relationship to you. When you finish this short book, you will know why.

WARNING: If you are looking for an entertaining novel, keep looking. This is not it. If you are looking for insights that you have never found before, and will not find anywhere else, keep reading....

David and Christi were high school sweethearts. They dated for two years before they decided to move in together. David got a job on construction. Christi stayed in school, hoping to get at least a bachelor's degree.

They had a good relationship compared to some others, but they made sure they kept control of their own space. David had his own pursuits, as did Christi. He liked to hang with his high school buddies and go to the stock car races. When football season came, he was all-in. He liked to dress up his own wheels, too. He put a lot of time and money into those wheels. He made sure his car was unique and turned heads.

Christi was a looker and always made sure she was holding her own with the competition on the campus. They discussed marriage from time to time, but decided not to take the leap. It just seemed like an unnecessary commitment since they already had each other. They discussed children, too. But, Christi really didn't feel the call to motherhood, and David felt society was just not a good place to raise kids. In all honesty, David didn't really have a hunger to have any rug rats in his life. It would just cramp his lifestyle too much.

Christi saw herself as a professional girl. She was studying Business Administration, hoping to get a good job somewhere in a tall office building. It was a man's world, but that's where the security and the money were. So, she felt she had to go after it.

Between his time at the track and with the guys, and her homework, they found it a little challenging to find quality time

together. He paid the bills and she kept the apartment livable and made a few home cooked meals. They looked forward to their time spent together.

Their two worlds didn't have a lot of overlap, but they got by until Christi graduated from college. It was a great day. Christi got a good job at a respected company, putting in her 40 hours. Now their combined income offered more room to get more "stuff" and a bigger apartment. David got a new sports car to dress up, and Christi got a big, impressive wardrobe, and lots of shoes.

Later, Christi was drawn to a Christian church by one of her friends, and she became pretty active and devoted. David never picked up on it, himself. But, he let her have her own newfound salvation. It didn't crowd his own space that much. Her salvation was all about her, and his life was all about him.

After a few more years, they kind of drifted apart, him deeper into his world, and her deeper into hers. They had never really bonded into one spirit. They had never really experienced a love in which they "lived for the other". And since they didn't really make a formal commitment to each other in marriage, and since they didn't have children, they found it relatively easy to eventually go their own ways and start new lives.

David later moved in with a woman who had two older children from a previous marriage, and after some time, he married her. Bonding between the step-children and David was a challenge. In reality, it never really happened. But, they stayed relatively happily together until David retired and soon thereafter died of cancer.

Christi married a quiet, stay-at-home accountant she met at work. They never had children. As Christi aged, she felt her appeal as a woman slipping through her fingers. Her religious faith filled in the gap, to a great extent, so she found happiness in life into her old age through her own personal relationship with Jesus. Her husband was not a part of it. But, he gave her the room she needed for her spiritual fulfillment. They grew old together, quietly, but relatively happy.

You may think David and Christi lived pretty normal human lives; as good as one could expect. There are reasons why you think that way. Read on....

Where do we begin?

God created not only the physical universe, in which we live, and with which we are most familiar. He also created a spiritual universe, in which we also live, but with which we are not so familiar. The spiritual universe is complete with mountains, rivers, deserts, trees, flowers, fish, birds, sunsets and sounds, etc. In some ways, it's very similar to the physical universe, while in other ways, it's very different. The spiritual universe is not bound by the same restrictions of time and space as the physical universe is, and it's reality is shaped by compassion, thoughts and desires. There are many other similarities and differences, but we will limit our discussion to what applies to our topic.

Since both of these universes are a manifestation of God's creativity, they exist distinct from Him. God exists beyond his creation just as any artist exists distinct from his own painting or musical composition, etc. Of course, God can be experienced within His creation, both in the physical universe as well as in the spiritual universe. But, it would be a mistake to think that God "exists in" either world. He is beyond that. You cannot find Picasso in any of his paintings. But, we can experience him in them. So too, God is not limited to a location within something He created.

In this sense, God does not have a substantial form, or body – neither a substantial *spiritual* form or body, nor a substantial *physical* form or body. For this very reason, God created angelic beings, with a human-like substantial spiritual form or body so He

could relate through His angels in managing and caring for the spiritual universe. God could use His angels to give messages and directions, perform tasks, and advance the evolving processes of creation. He expressed his dreams, thoughts, desires and goals to, and through, the angels, and they helped Him to create and manifest these ideals.

Angels are fulfilled in serving God. He is their beneficent Lord. They serve Him, worship Him, adore Him, love Him.... God imbued angels with many of His own characteristics. They are intelligent, creative, stubborn, emotional, etc. And, they have free will.

The creation of the spiritual universe came first. And, the creation of angels was one part of that. Then, at some point in the history of God's creation, He undoubtedly announced to the angels that He was also going to create a physical universe. We can speculate that the angels may have retorted: "What for? We already have everything." But, God knew of a much greater possibility than that which the angels had ever experienced. He had a much bigger vision. His goal: To create billions and trillions of love partners who could, by themselves, multiply and expand God's love in deeper and more diverse ways than angels in the spiritual universe could even imagine.

God's ultimate goal of creation was man and woman, sons and daughters which He designed to grow and mature to fully emulate Himself. We were not an afterthought. We were not the latest accidental random mutations of nature. God was very much involved in every step of the evolving processes of creation, from simple to complex, plus the endless variety of it all. Man is the

essential expression of not only His logos, but of His heart. Therefore, Jesus is described as the Word (logos) made flesh. But, this was God's original intention for every human being, not only for Jesus. As we will discuss later, God's plan was derailed, and we are still in the cooperative process of getting the train back on the tracks.

In God's grand scheme of things, He invested an unimaginable amount of creative energy and time in creating an environment suitable for His human sons and daughters. The spiritual universe is not just an environment for angels. It was intended from the beginning of the creation process to be the eternal home for his human sons and daughters, after they had graduated from this physical, temporal "womb" for their heartistic development.

Angels are not something God made to stroke His ego, or to fill His heavenly courts with music and admiration. God is not such an egotistical being, as many imagine Him to be. As we might have noticed from observing nature, God is the ultimate giver, the ultimate lover, and also a very practical being. God made angels out of His profound love, but also for a practical purpose.

God could have spared Himself the time and effort of creating the physical universe and human beings, and been satisfied with billions of angels with which to commune. After all, He could and did create them in all sorts of various shapes and sizes and rejoiced in their uniqueness. Both God and the angels have celebrated and enjoyed the love they have shared. And, the angels have rejoiced with each other about the love they felt from God.

Creating the spiritual universe was much easier for God to do than creating the physical universe. So, why did God go to all the work and bother to create a place for physical humans to live in, and for a very brief 80 or 90 years, at that? After all, scientists now tell us there are roughly as many stars in the physical universe as there are cells in your body. God was not a “weekend warrior” with this project. This was not His “hobby”. He invested all of Himself into it. Why? What is so incredibly important about those 80 or 90 years? And, what is so important about this physical universe that God invested so much of Himself in creating it for us?

Angels can create a loving bond of love with God directly, but they do not develop a profound bond of love with one another. Angels are not related to each other. They don’t have families. They don’t know the potential heartistic bonding of the human family, nor an extended human family. They can only imagine the feeling of nursing at a mother’s breast. They don’t grow up from infants. They don’t get carried around by their mothers for 15 months. They don’t need bathing, or diaper changes. They don’t need to be spoon fed, or taken for walks. They don’t have brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, or cousins. Angels are individual, task-oriented creatures.

Therefore, to manifest a much more profound love, a creative love in which God could also participate and resonate, God created humans in a physical universe wherein we could be co-creators and reproduce God’s own nature in infinite variety, and also experience an intimate relationship and bond of love through families. Thus, the love of God, which should grow, deepen and expand without limit in both the physical and the spiritual worlds,

must first take root and mature in the soil of the human family during our physical life on earth.

Man's original nature

Man was intended by God to become more-and-more like Him, as we matured. Why? Because God wanted a partner who could share and fully experience His own love and return it back to Him, creatively, sincerely and spontaneously. The Biblical prophet Malachi said that God sought “godly offspring”¹. St. Paul said that creation is “awaiting the revealing of the sons of God”². It has not experienced them yet. God said in Genesis that He made man “in His image and likeness”³. Does that mean that God has a nose and two ears? No. It means that our heart and character resemble and have the same attributes as God's own heart and character. That's why Jesus' famous “Sermon on the Mount” was all about heart and character, and his admonition was, “You therefore must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect”⁴ referring to heart and character. So, as human children of God, we are to develop and mature virtues and love, and express them through our creativity and physical and spiritual capabilities.

Man's maturity in God's image was to grow naturally. Bibles, churches, mosques and synagogues were not in the original plan. Neither was prayer and salvation. Man was to mature through his intimate experiences of heart in the family – which was intended to be the “school of love” for all people, and through their experiences with nature. Humans were originally designed to become fully mature in heart, as much as possible as individuals and spouses, before raising children; by the time they reached their early twenties. This was the pre-requisite for marriage and family.

Thus, God directed his first humans to: “Be fruitful and multiply”.⁵ These two words do not mean the same thing. “Be fruitful” referred to maturing and growing to a perfection of heart and character in God’s image. And, the action of “multiplying” was to commence on the foundation of that accomplishment. If you step back and think about it, only humans are multiplying without first realizing their full, potential maturity. Aside from humans, living creatures fully mature before multiplying.

On the other hand, angels have no experience of “growing” in the way that humans do. They’re not created as infants, nor are they raised by parents within a family to become adults. They never “grow up”. Thus, the influence of angels in our lives has not helped us to come face-to-face with the importance and value of the human spiritual and heartistic growth process.

The bonding of love

While angels resemble humans in almost every way, they do not have, nor ever had, a physical body. They have a spiritual body and they often resemble humans so much as to sometimes be mistaken for us. Since they are not limited by the physical restrictions in their appearance, they can change how they appear, at will. They are individual, task-oriented creatures. They are mission-oriented. They were created to serve God and man. The Bible says they adore God, worship God, and function as messengers and servants. They get their fulfillment in doing what God needs them to do.

They do not know the human experience of “bonding”. However, they do bond with God. God gives them tasks to do, they perform them to the best of their ability, and God loves and blesses them, accordingly. They are happy with this arrangement. Like any of God’s creatures, they are happy being what they are.

However, even in their bonding with God, it is different from human bonding. Their bonding with God might be compared with the spiritual and religious bonding with God that an orphan might experience, who never knew what his own family was like. Imagine bonding with your “heavenly father” when there has been no one in your life who could give you the experience of what a “father” is, let alone a mother.

The amazing thing is that, because of the difference in environment and circumstances, an angel can live for millions and

millions of years and still never achieve the perfection of heart and love which Jesus was telling us human beings that we *must* achieve. In contrast, God's intention was that human beings be born into His divine love and live a full life experiencing His divine love in the context of a family. Humans were supposed to achieve heartistic perfection, or full maturity of heart, before becoming parents, themselves. That means by our early twenties we were supposed to have cultivated in ourselves perfect, divine, universal and unconditional love, i.e., the true love of God.

The family was intended to be the “school of love”. Twelve general types of love were to be experienced in the nuclear family, alone. They include: God's love for the husband, and the husband's love for God; God's love for the wife, and the wife's love for God; the husband's love for the wife, and the wife's love for the husband; the husband's love for the children, and the children's love for the husband (or father); the wife's love for the children and the children's love for the wife (or mother); and finally, God's love for the children, and the children's love for God. Obviously, the extended human family, including aunts and uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces, plus friends, will provide even more opportunities to expand and deepen our experiences of love.

You can see why God was so excited to create the human family, and also why angels can admire the human situation. The human family is like a “love factory”. Since the Bible says “God is love”⁶, He must have had tremendous expectations for the love He could experience and participate in with His human children.

So, God invested everything in creating an environment for the perfection and expansion of love in which we only need to live for a few decades. When we die, we then carry that matured and perfected love with us into our eternal lives in the spiritual universe and experience the fullness of love, joy and freedom there, relating with God on the foundation of our human bonding experiences.

Angels were intended by God to learn, experience and inherit that divine love from human beings as we lived our lives on earth.

A womb for our eternal spirit

The decades of experience we have with the divine love of God in the family on earth is literally the womb for our spirit, according to the teachings of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, referred to hereafter as Father and Mother Moon. If we fail to perfect our love when we have the opportunity on earth, we will enter the spiritual world unprepared and unequipped for our eternal life there. The atmosphere there is one of love, not air, Father Moon said. If you don't learn to feel, give and receive divine love, your life will be seriously impaired there. That is the state of most people who have gone before us. That's why the realm of the spiritual universe called "hell" is so highly populated. Religions were supposed to help us to prepare for our eternal lives, but often they distracted their followers with rituals, doctrines and dogmas, with little real emphasis on the development of divine love and spiritual transformation, and sometimes even engendered negative prejudices and narrow-mindedness, detracting from or damaging our ability to love.

The School of Love became an endless, unbreakable cycle of imperfection

There are four realms of the heart in human development. The first realm of heart is that of the infant. Ideally, God intended infants to experience the fullness of the divine love of God primarily through their fathers and mothers. It is understood that God's plan was that the parents first perfect their love at least as individuals, and to some extent as spouses, before having children.

On that foundation, the infant was intended to grow into the next realm of heart, which is the siblings, or social, realm of heart. In this realm, the child or teenager would experience sharing and building and expanding upon the divine love of God that he or she experienced as an infant, but with brothers and sister, playmates and friends. Of course, those playmates and friends were to also be standing on the foundation of having experienced God's divine love in their own families. Thus, the social experience of youth should be purely one of God's divine love in expanding and growing dimensions and proportions. The hurt and disappointment we often experience during our youth, in our social relationships, was not part of the plan.

The third realm of heart is the spousal realm. On the foundation of a social life of rich experiences of God's divine love, a young man and young woman were to marry and give each other all of the love they had experienced thus far in life, and more. They were not to share leftover love after "playing the field".

They were to give each other 100% of their hearts, and God was looking forward to experiencing all of it together with them.

Finally, the day was to naturally come when the parental realm of heart would commence with the birth of a new child of God. Here, the cycle of love was to start all over. It was to be an endless, unbreakable cycle of God's love.

However, as a consequence of the human Fall, these four realms of heart became seriously compromised and distorted. The result was that each flawed realm became the foundation for the next realm in each person's life, and each generation inherited an endless and unbreakable cycle of imperfection and damage. That doesn't mean that life is meaningless and totally worthless. But, we can often feel that it is not what it was intended to be, or what it could potentially be.

Instead of the ideal, we have infants who experience beautiful love from their mothers, and hopefully also their fathers, but not fully matured and perfected love as shown by Jesus, for example. Then, on that foundation, the child enters his or her social life with other children who may or may not have experienced as much love as they have, themselves. There are all kinds of family situations out there. Throughout man's fallen history, and today, children commonly experience many social situations that are far from the ideal. Sometimes, children and teenagers are deeply hurt by others, both within and without their own families.

Contemporary society encourages them to find the love they hunger for by "playing the field". This does not improve the situation. On the foundation of many compromises of the heart, a young man and young woman may choose to live together or

hopefully marry. Challenges are guaranteed. Hopefully they are not insurmountable. At some point, little Mikey comes along, and they do their best to raise him well. And, the less-than-ideal cycle starts all over again, and is likewise, unbreakable.

Why are we explaining this? Because angels do not have these crucial realms of heart to experience and build upon. They are to inherit the lessons of the heart and love from their human counterparts. But, the human process is seriously damaged. It was the four realms of heart that were to produce humans on an entirely different and higher heartistic plane than that of angels. The four realms of heart were the reason God created human beings and the entire physical universe. As a result of the breakdown, instead of angels becoming more human-like through learning and growing with us, humans have tended to become far more angelic than they were ever designed to be.

Man's acquired angelic natures

Only God is Holy and Good

Fallen human beings have come to believe that ONLY GOD can be considered holy, pure, divine and good. While there is truth in this perspective because of the human Fall, man's intrinsic design is such that we are intended to be fully like Him in every respect. Before the Fall, God said he "made man in His image"¹³. We have not taken that to heart. God intended for every mature human being to be fully divine, fully good, pure and holy, like Himself. He intended to fully resonate with each mature human being in their minds and hearts. Thus, we should have the understanding that we are intended to be as holy and good as God, Himself.

Angels were not designed to achieve this kind of maturity without the assistance of human beings as their models and mentors of love. Thus, it would be reasonable for angels to put God on a higher, unreachable plane and consider God and ONLY GOD to be holy and good. Since human beings fell and did not become the models and mentors that could enable angels to also achieve heartistic resonance with God, and since imperfect angels have continued to manage and administer God's providential interaction with fallen man, we inevitably adopted this angelic perspective from them.

Perfection is alien to us

Human beings are designed to mature to a state of “perfection” in a heartistic sense. This has been confusing to many fallen people because we tend to think psychologically (another angelic tendency), instead of heartistically, about “perfection”. Jesus admonished us, saying in his famous Sermon on the Mount “You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.” The context of his statement clearly indicates that he was speaking of virtue and love, rather than faultlessness and infallibility. Humans were designed to be born into, and grow up in, a “school of love”. Therefore, perfection of virtue and love should be the norm for adult humans.

However, because of the Fall, perfection has not only been impossible to achieve for humans, it therefore also became impossible to achieve for angels who were to learn it from their human mentors and models. Thus, while perfection could be arguably alien to both angels and humans, the typical human attitude toward perfection has become more angelic than human because we see it as a psychological and behavioral state of being that we cannot possibly achieve on our own. This should not be a human perspective. It is the angels who can rightly say that they cannot possibly achieve it on their own, but only in partnership with their human models and mentors. Thus, we are taking more of an angelic perspective toward our own perfection than a human one.

We are so individualistic

Angels are individual, task-oriented creatures, by design. How about us? Humans were to be shaped into profoundly social beings through their experiences of growing up in the family. Radical individualism is sub-human. Humanity was to distinguish itself through the intimate, familial relationships we all should be sharing, both within and without our nuclear families. Instead, fallen human beings often feel estranged from each other, and therefore become overly individualistic.

In addition, we often also tend to get far too much of our perception of self-worth and value from the things we make, the things we fix, the skills we master and perform, the way we look, how much material we amass, and how smart we think we are, etc., rather than from “the quality of our very being” and “who we are” as God’s sons and daughters. The external and task-oriented ways we seek value in our lives can sometimes make it seem like we are more like angels in human bodies.

Temporal marriage

Why has marriage among human beings been temporal - “’til death do us part”? Jesus said, when we die, we will no longer be husband and wife, but live separately “like angels”¹³. What is the reason for this? To quote a popular song: “If love isn’t forever, then what’s forever for?” The reason for this is that the damage to humanity from the Fall has resulted in mankind being unable to “become as one” as we are admonished to become in both the book of Genesis and also by Jesus, himself;¹⁴ not only one in flesh, but also one in heart and spirit.

Many couples do achieve a high degree of spiritual and heartistic oneness, but still not to the extent God had intended for husbands and wives. Father Moon described the intended state of oneness such that the husband and wife, in the spirit world after death, would literally become one spiritual entity. When the husband expresses himself, his image will appear, and when the wife expresses herself, her image will appear. They will have reached ultimate oneness of heart and spirit.

That kind of oneness requires total removal of the effects of the Fall, and a complete and pure sanctioning of the marriage by God. This was not possible in Jesus’ day. Only through the grace given by God through the True Parents, Father and Mother Moon, has this state of eternal oneness finally become possible. Thus, for marriage to exist only during our earthly lives and not continue with the one we love

when we die, and to degrade to an angelic, individualistic state, is clearly not what God intended for humans.

Married without kids

How many couples have chosen not to have children? Granted, they often have many rational and practical justifications for this choice. However, it is the bonding of love within familial relationships which makes us human, as opposed to angelic. To limit our existence to an individual state or even a couple state, without children, is clearly not human thinking. It is surrendering to an angelic-style existence.

In the future, angels will be given spouses. But, they will never have children. They will never have a direct experience of family relationships. In this sense, when we marry and choose not to have children, we are side-stepping a big part of our humanity.

Parents as just friends

How many parents are trying to deepen their relationship with their children by structuring their family ties in terms of simple friendship? Perhaps this is a reaction to austere, authoritarian parenting of a previous generation. In any case, raising one's children to consider them as just "John and Mary" instead of Father and Mother goes beyond language. It shows a conscious effort to depart from the vertical, parental relationship.

Angels have friends among other angels. They just don't have family. Instead of fixing the unsatisfactory relationships we find in our families, we are perhaps "throwing the baby out with the bath water" by trying to flatten the family into a simple peer structure.

No one can argue against our parents being our friends. They should be our *best* friends. But, if they are not more than that, then we are negating the "school of love" that God blessed human beings with. Without that, even the angels will not be able to perfect their love in cooperation with their models and mentors on earth. Clearly, to emulate angelic thinking here is a step in the wrong direction.

Be celibate to get close to God

Priests, nuns, monks and other ascetic believers have chosen to be married to God or Jesus instead of taking a human spouse and having a family. They believe this will enable them to achieve a closer relationship with God. How contrary is that? In fact, it is the human family which enables God's love to be expanded and perfected, and which thereby enables human beings to become fully resonant with God, who is both our Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother.

Many also believe that angels are closer to God than fallen humans, and therefore we should ideally emulate the life of an angel. The angels may attack you for thinking like that. It is undermining the original design of creation. Before angels can become perfect in love and character, in the complete image of God, humans must do so, and it happens only in the context of the human marriage and family. Have we not seen enough problems within the celibate lifestyle to realize there is something less than ideal about it?

God is apart from us – *out there!*

God originally intended to resonate with the heart and mind of mature human beings and live “in us and among us”. He never intended to live “out there” somewhere, as if He were watching us through binoculars to see how we are behaving. It sounds too much like a child’s notion of Santa Claus. Human intimacy with God was to be created by our lifelong experience of family, both nuclear and extended. God wanted and expected to live within the heart and mind of His perfected children, not in terms of location, of course, but in spirit.

While angels can also feel the closeness of God, their experience is much more distant or indirect since they have no personal experience with the intimacy of familial relationships. If you were an orphan, and never experienced having had a father, how might the potential intimacy between you and your “heavenly father” be impacted? If you never had a child of your own, how can you really feel the potential intimacy of being God’s “child”? The conclusion: Stop living “*for* God”. Start living “*with* God” in everything that you experience and do. Eat “*with* God”. Sleep “*with* God”. Play golf “*with* God”. Etc. You will experience a huge difference. We are humans, not angels.

We can only be God's "object"

Angels are objects to God. They were created as his messengers and servants. They worship and adore God. They consider God to be their "master". They are comfortable with that. They were made for that relationship. They like it and are not having an identity crisis over it. They are not wishing they were humans.

But, humans are different. God created humans to be His sons and daughters. Mature sons and daughters can take even a subjective position in relation to God and comfort His broken heart, tell Him jokes, inspire Him, impress Him, surprise Him, hurt Him, disappoint Him, and upset Him, etc. God said, after the Fall of Adam and Eve, that He was "sorry he made man on the face of the earth and it grieved him in his heart."¹⁵ Wow! We did that to Him! He was the object of our disappointment and betrayal. We have done plenty of the negative things, but we are also in a position to do far more of the positive ones. Humans, therefore, are not simply God's objects, as are angels. This common concept is incorrect.

Evaluating people by works

Karl Marx wrote of the “labor theory of value” which ascribed to a human being a value equivalent to the amount of labor that he performed. Many people, even outside of communist societies, think their value comes primarily through what they DO. Thus, if you don’t do anything, you have no value. There is some truth in it, since there are many types of value which we have. For example, we can say that we have intrinsic value as God’s sons and daughters. We also have potential value, eternal value, practical value, social value, political value, economic value, etc. Certainly, the things that people do can add to their personal sense of value, as well as their social value, etc.

However, many people’s sense of their intrinsic and eternal value as God’s sons and daughters is very weak. How many people have you met who will inevitably work themselves into the grave, even though they may already have a very healthy retirement set aside for themselves? I personally knew a successful businessman who was worth \$200 million. But, he was still going into the office at 3 am each morning to “read the mail” before coming home to breakfast with his wife, even when he was sucking on an oxygen tube during the last months before he finally passed away. No doubt he is still living this way, even after dying.

Even many religions reinforce this misconception by promising eternal happiness to those who perform properly

through a variety of prescribed religious rituals and functions of the faith. In a sense, “If you just jump through these certain hoops, there is a bone waiting for you on the other side.” This detracts from the understanding of God as our parent, and we as His sons and daughters, and puts such believers into a role similar to that of someone’s pet. It loses the essential concept of spiritual transformation and heartistic maturation which is supposed to be the crucial outcome of a religious life.

What if a person were confined to a wheel chair? Would they lose their value before God? We need to reflect on how much we try to find our value in what we do and how much we don’t see our value in who we are as God’s son or daughter.

Angels derive their value in performing tasks and assignments given by God. Angels are designed as individual task-oriented creatures. We have adopted their value perspective to a great extent. How angelic we have become.

A Piece of creation or Lord of creation

The more we grow to resemble and resonate with God, the more we can experience His love and also His thoughts, etc. For that reason, every aspect of creation does NOT have equal value. All things have divine value because they are an expression of God's own creativity. But, the more a being resembles God, the more divine value it can be said to have.

Therefore, an earthworm has divine value in that it was designed and created by God and is an expression of God's own nature in a simple form. And, both God and the earthworm can experience God's love in their relationship with each other. But, a human being can both receive and also return to God a much more sophisticated experience of His love and character than an earthworm. If this seems politically incorrect, try working and living in a daycare facility, 24/7, for 40 years and see if you find yourself craving another adult to relate with and talk to.

Thus, mankind was intended to grow and mature to be loving lords over the rest of the creation, and not just another equal piece of it. We have not been the loving lords of which we speak. Thus, we have created damage and resentment. St. Paul even said the "the creation is groaning in travail, awaiting the revealing of the sons of God."¹⁶ That is precisely the point. The "sons of God" will bring fulfillment to the rest of creation by being the bridge, bringing God's own love to all of nature in new and creative ways.

Herein, our reference to “creation” includes the angels. The angels were never intended to become the “lords of creation”. That role is reserved for humans in their maturity and perfection. Thus, our confusion with “who we are” is just one more remnant of our tutelage by the angelic world.

Unisex culture

There is no reference in the Bible to female angels. Those who have been able to explore the spiritual universe and report on it, such as Father Moon, have confirmed that to be the reality. Angels can change their form at will. Angels may choose to look feminine, or even emulate female humans. But, since angels do not yet have their female counterparts with whom to share their existence, they have no way to exercise their masculinity, in some ways. In fact, some angels are said in the Bible to have taken human women and had sexual intercourse with them, of course outside of the proper realm of the angelic world. While the male angels await their female counterparts from God, they exist more like a fraternity of workers for God, not conscious of, nor able to act on, their masculinity. They are all the same.

In the 1970's, on American campuses, there was a brief, but striking, phenomena called the "unisex era". During this period, young men and woman had the idea that they were all just "humans". They disregarded the physical distinctions between male and female and instead chose to look totally identical. They donned the same clothes, same hairstyles, sometimes both wore a little light makeup, and Wallach! We're all just "people". Well, as you can see, it didn't last very long. But, it was a curious phenomena that harkened back to the monogender reality of the angelic realm.

Women's identity

If there are only male angels, and angels that choose to imitate female humans, then the emissaries of God to humans offer little help with mankind's apparent difficulty in identifying the "Divine Feminine". Female gods are common within the mystical traditions of Hinduism and Greek mythology, among many others. Within Catholicism, it is Mother Mary who offers the hope of getting a glimpse at God's expression as a woman. However, she was not of the same category as her perfected son, Jesus. In reality, Mary was like the rest of us in that she was an imperfect human being of the fallen lineage of the archangel, as spoken of by Jesus.¹⁷ Thus, there are many women who cling to Mother Mary with a passion, seeking to identify through her with the Divine Feminine. But, she is not it. Women have yet to find their model of divine perfection and maturity of character and heart as a woman, like that offered by Jesus for men. Mother Teresa offers a wonderful model and example of a sacrificial nun, and servant of humanity and God. But, she was neither married nor a mother in her own rite.

It is the belief of many that Mother Moon has been raised up to the fulfillment of that role in our own lifetime. For the first time in human history, that would enable women to experience the Divine Feminine and identify themselves with it.

However, why has humanity suffered this emptiness and gap, both before and after the advent of Jesus as the embodiment of God's own masculinity? It is because the angelic world has no direct concept of, nor direct experience with, the femininity of God. Therefore, men could resonate somewhat with the angelic masculine realms, but women had no such benefit. They have unfortunately been wandering in a spiritual void until now, surrounded by imperfect male angels and imperfect fallen men, with no model of the divine feminine, at all.

Truth-centered

Angels know all the practical knowledge there is to know. Knowledge is not hard to get in the spiritual world. In addition, the angels were involved, hands-on, helping God to fashion the entire physical universe, including us. They have not been able, however, to develop virtue and profound love apart from their earthly counterparts, humans. Why?

An angel exists in a free environment without the same limitations of time and space that we have in the physical universe. An angel, for example, can only experience what humans call “patience” by experiencing it through a human who is stuck in time and space and has to wait for something. Similarly, an angel can only experience “tolerance” by experiencing it through a human who is stuck in time and space and must “tolerate” something or someone who is somewhat annoying.

Unfortunately, humans after the Fall have not perfected these qualities very well, either. We have the environment in which to develop the virtues we need as a foundation of divine love, but we too often find ourselves cursing the circumstances which God put us in to help us develop virtues and divine love. We complain when we have to wait for anything. We persecute people who are different from us. We hold onto our intolerance, impatience, disrespect, and jealousies, poisoning our own spiritual maturation processes.

So, we tend to focus more on intellectual pursuits. People commonly try to fill the emptiness they feel in their souls and hearts with intellectual understanding, facts and knowledge. People scour through books, trying to find fulfillment. Not that we don't pursue money and power in the same ways and for the same reasons, but we have certainly become intellectually-oriented creatures. Even our religious traditions have become overly intellectualized and focused on doctrines and dogmas, instead of transformation and maturation of the heart and character.

This does not mean humans should give up intellectual pursuits, or be stupid. It is a matter of balance, priorities and values. Man, like God, should be motivated and led by his heart while he engages in his important intellectual pursuits. But, the heartistic realm is, by far, much more important in the eternal scheme of things. By loosening our grip on the heartistic plane and increasing our emphasis on the intellectual plane, we have weakened our humanity and instead emulated the angelic creatures who are here to learn from us.

Man is God's servant

As stated before, while many people call themselves “children of God”, in reality they tend to think of themselves and behave more like God's pets. In a similar manner, some people and cultures hold a strong affinity to a servant-like relationship with God. He is their “master”. The penalty for not doing a good job in this life is eternal suffering in hell. We must then appeal for His mercy without ceasing. It does not match well with the image of God we get from Jesus' parables of the Prodigal Son and of the Lost Sheep.¹⁸ Needless to say, this is clearly more of an angelic perspective than a human one.

Angelic worship

It is said that the angels worship God. Humans also worship God. Should both of these expressions of worship be identical, or should they differ in some way?

God, as the object of the worship, is the same in both cases. But, the subject of the worship is very different. Angels are servants and messengers for God. God is their master. He is also their father, in a sense, but they have no direct frame of reference for that realization.

Humans, on the other hand, are not servants of God. Humans are God's children; sons and daughters. This is very different. We have the blessing of being born into and growing up in families, where God is initially represented to babies by their fathers and mothers. We have intimate, heartistic experiences in which we are to bond and expand God's love in infinite dimensions.

Then, why do some forms of human religious worship seem so angelic in nature? Why are many people worshipping God as if He were their "master" instead of their Parent? Simply, we don't know clearly who we are and what our relationship to God should be.

Jesus should marry

“Perish the thought!” Many people have been conditioned to think such a possibility would be scandalous and even dirty. “How could the son of God stoop down to such a despicable level as to marry, and even have children? Isn’t the Church to be his bride where the book of Revelation talks of the Marriage of the Lamb?”¹⁹

We are so stuck in the mindset of angels. Being human has been an illusive reality for us because we are spiritually and heartistically crippled, and fulfilling our human potential has been beyond our reach. So, we have been wandering in search of our true identity.

To make matters worse, we then imparted our limitations even onto the model of a true, divine human being in the person of Jesus. Does not the Bible indicate that Jesus was to come and “rule over the house of Jacob forever and ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end”?²⁰ How might that be possible? Only if either Jesus was to live forever in his physical body, or if he should have a lineage of descendants through which his kingdom would carry forth.

Father Moon teaches that Jesus was absolutely supposed to marry and have children. That was God’s greatest desire for him. Had he done so, according to Father Moon, we would have seen the reality of the Kingdom of God on earth by now, created through his descendants.

Only in recent decades, through movies and books, has the idea of Jesus potentially having a family emerged. It is welcome in a world that has been stuck in too much angelic thinking.

We are responsible

Humanity has never understood the extent of its portion of responsibility in relation to God. We are in a partnership with Him. When Cain asked God: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”²¹ God did not answer him. The answer is, yes, we are. But, Cain was in no psychological or emotional position to receive that response from God.

Angels are servants. They do what they are asked to do. Man is intended, in his maturity of virtue and love, to have dominion. The responsibility is great. Whoever and whatever a person of true love perceives is in need of his care and love, that becomes his responsibility. As long as there is one person suffering from the lack of true love and the practical ramifications of that, a man of true love will strive to satisfy that need, either directly or indirectly.

Many wise spiritual leaders populate the earth, but none have demonstrated a burning passion to save all of humanity. Only Jesus and Father and Mother Moon have shown that burning passion. Wise words won’t do it. Books won’t do it. Billboards won’t do it. Prayer, alone, won’t do it. Meditation won’t do it. Even famous spiritual leaders have stated that they feel their only responsibility is to “believe”. To just “believe” is angelic. It is all intellectual. To “know” and then to “become”, especially in the critical realms of the heart and character, is divinely human.

More on Angels...

Why God has used angels to communicate with us

It's no surprise that God's ultimate expressions and manifestations of His heart and logos in the spiritual universe - angels - resemble His ultimate expressions and manifestations in the physical universe - humans. Angels and human beings are the fullest expression of God's heart and logos. Granted, angels can alter their appearance and form at will, unlike humans, but the highest expression of God's heart and logos is found in human beings. Thus, we can read in the book of Genesis that God told the angels: "Let us make man in our image."

Simple forms of creation can express simple aspects of God's nature, but more sophisticated creations are needed to express more sophisticated aspects of His nature. A wild flower can express a simple form of God's love to you. But, your beloved dog, Fido, can express a more sophisticated form of God's love to you. On the other hand, a loving mother or father can express a *far more* sophisticated form of God's love to you.

Certainly God can express His profound love to you through something as simple as a summer breeze. But, God expresses His most sophisticated desires and helpful instructions and messages through beings most closely resembling Himself, as His representatives. Thus, angels are often referred to in the Bible as "lord". God manifested Himself to Moses on Mt. Sinai through an angel in the burning bush. Sometimes God borrows the form of Jesus to manifest Himself, both in the physical universe and also in the spiritual universe. Sometimes He uses the form of Jesus'

mother, Mary; or others. The form He uses to relate to us largely depends upon the person(s) He seeks to communicate with, and how we will respond and relate to it. He will manifest Himself to a Muslim through the image of Mohammad, and to a Hindu through the image of one of their many gods.

Jesus is the literal Son of God, and as such, God's mind and heart resonate with Jesus' own mind and heart. Thus, we could say that Jesus was the Temple of God and that God was manifesting Himself through the person of Jesus. Jesus was unlike any other human being before him. He was not just a prophet. He was not just an inspired fallen human being, either. He was born sinless, not of the lineage of fallen mankind. He grew through his trials and sufferings to perfectly embody God's love.⁷ Thus, Jesus could represent God to us perfectly as a man, in the image and likeness of God the creator.

But, before and after Jesus, there was no human being that could represent God as purely and profoundly. Fallen man, even those called by God, cannot claim to be a living Temple of God purely; fully resonating with the Father Himself. Thus, before and after Jesus, God related to fallen man through the best representative of Himself that he had available - his servants, the angels.

An angel was caring for, protecting and raising Adam and Eve. It was an angel who spoke to Hagar, Abraham, Jacob, Balaam, Moses, Gideon, and Manoah. An angel was used to commence destroying Jerusalem in David's time; spoke to Joshua, Zachariah, Mary, the Wise Men, Joseph, Peter, Jesus, and to John the Revelator, etc. After Jesus, angels also brought revelations to

Mohammad, Joseph Smith, and many others. And, beyond these instances, many believe that each of us are assigned an angel to guide and protect us.

The “fearsome” pre-Jesus God

Fallen man has an excessively elevated view of angels. We might think it a blessing and benefit that God used angels to relate to human beings before and after Jesus. However, it came with some negative consequences.

God’s essence is love. It would not be wrong to say that God “just wants to love us – all the time and everywhere”. But, God is also a God of order and principle. So, there is order in the expression of His love. His love is not “anything goes” love. In other words, God loves you all the time, no matter how you may behave, but He may not *express* His love to you equally, no matter how you may behave. In that respect, He is like any human parent. That’s why Jesus gave us insight into the nature and heart of God through his famous parables of the Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep. He is truly the loving Parent of us all.

Father Moon taught that God has no concept of enemies, and wants to restore everyone in hell and even the fallen angel who betrayed him and ruined His entire plan of creation. He added: “He loves, and then forgets that He gave love, and then seeks to give His love again and again.” We are all His beloved children, no matter what choices we may have made in our lives. He only wants to love us and bless us, without limit.

How is it, then, that this loving God, parent of all humanity, came to have such a fearsome image and reputation as we are often presented with in the Old Testament of the Bible? There are

two fundamental reasons for this. The first key to understanding this lies in God's own nature.

As we have already said, God does not have a body. Even in the spiritual world, while God is an obvious reality to all who inhabit that realm, He has no form. He is not visible as a shape or form. In fact, Father Moon taught that God intended for the mature and perfected Adam and Eve to become His visible form, the expression of both His masculinity and His femininity in both the physical universe and, after they died, also in the spiritual universe. Thus, God wanted to live in, and resonate with, Adam and Eve's hearts and minds and then express Himself through their physical and spiritual bodies. Indeed, this indwelling of God's spirit in human form would extend to all perfected human beings. This does NOT mean that He would dominate His children, or usurp their free will or independence at all. Rather, God and mankind would become resonant beings in heart and mind.

Nor was this intended as a one-way street. Not only would man benefit from being resonant with the living God, but God would participate in the lives of men and women, experiencing things that He could not otherwise experience by Himself, nor even with other created beings such as angels. The experience of birthing, raising and bonding with a human child opens a world of experiences of the heart that could not be experienced before by God, even with monkeys or other wild creatures. God could not experience what it was like to have grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, or nieces, etc., until human beings had them and He could experience it with us. Thus, experientially, God Himself continues to grow and develop.

That was the plan, at least. In reality, it was greatly compromised by the events that transpired in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve fell. God lost his intended, resonant body in His human children. He was left with the next best substitute, which were His angels. But, angels were not yet perfected, and could never reach the dimensions of love that humans were intended to reach, by themselves. Plus, after the human Fall, angels had no means to reach perfection since the human school of love was corrupted and damaged. So, God had no choice but to express Himself through imperfect angels whose relationship with Him was that of a servant, rather than as intimate children.

Thus, when angels came to man, representing God, they conveyed to man the image of God that they knew, which is that of a Master, rather than of a compassionate Father, as shown and described by Jesus. Jesus was the new Adam. He knew God's heart much more intimately and deeply than angels could, as a son. Thus, before and after Jesus, man got a very rough "Master-Servant" image of the compassionate God due to the necessary intercession of angels.

The second key to understanding why God has been given such a harsh image in history, at least before Jesus, lies in our understanding of fallen mankind. Since man's relationship with God was damaged through the rebellion and seduction which marred our first ancestor's experience with love, all subsequent generations have wandered in a sea of speculation and theories about "Who is God?" And, since God is the literal source of love, our damaged connection and relationship with Him left fallen mankind with a relatively limited experience of love with which to relate with each other. The "school of love" was left with no

model, no mentor, and relatively blind teachers leading relatively blind students. Thus, we have tended to impose our own self-centered, egotistical, immature and sometimes hurtful motivations upon God, Himself, effectually painting God in the image and likeness of fallen man. In this way, man brought God down to his own fallen level.

Mankind has been immersed in Cain's point of view – “Am I my brother's keeper?”⁸ – rather than perfected Adam's point of view, as we received from Jesus and from Father Moon. Thus, these new Adams had to tell us such basic things as “love your enemy”⁹ and informed us that God is actually our “Father in heaven”¹⁰. The enmity of Cain was only partially resolved in the reunion of Esau and Jacob¹¹ (with jealous Esau representing Cain in the relationship between the two) and also in the reunion of Joseph and his brothers¹² (again, with the jealous brothers representing Cain). Cain's mission is to resolve and overcome the jealousy, anger and resentment which humanity ultimately inherited from the rebellious angel in the Garden of Eden. But, since Cain's mission is still not fully accomplished in humanity, the “victimized” viewpoint of Cain lingers on, and we project it onto each other, and also onto God.

Dave and Christi

How many people are similar to Dave and Christi? They lived in their own individual angelic worlds. Their two individual worlds intersected each other, but they had no mind to even try to become “one”, as was God’s original design and intention. This included their later relationships. It was just a personal way of life.

Marriage, when they did opt for it, remained a temporal, worldly thing; Nothing eternal or too serious. And kids? No. Especially not for David. He had no room in his angelic persona for that. He was too caught up in himself and had nothing to give a crying child. Bonding with his step-children didn’t work, either.

And Christi found herself trying to play the game and make it in a man’s world, like so many others feel compelled to do. Companionship was a real need for Christi, but children were not a part of her world, either. Her solitary relationship with God was there. But, without a family, it seemed rather angelic.

We are not here to fault them for these things. They are not to blame. Like everyone, they were doing the best they could with the cards they were handed, trying to make the right decisions and choices every day. They were simply products of a human society tainted with angelic DNA.

But, there is a way out of this “matrix”. God would not have been so tirelessly working to save us if there were no way out. But, don’t be tempted to look for a magic pill, either. That would be more angelic wishful thinking.

Enhancing the quality of life and problem-solving

It is more than common for spiritual leaders on all levels to invest their lives and energies into improving and saving the lives of their flock. In too many cases, however, the all-important message people need is conveyed on an intellectual level with the hope that change and action will result. Often, this seldom produces action or change.

The angelic realm operates primarily on the intellectual plane, whereas human beings are designed differently. Humans are motivated by heart, and by experiences and information which have impacted their hearts. Thus, of the ministers who retire or resign each year, many cite an inability to effect change in people's lives. Action steps, personal testimonies, mission work, and other experiential methods can produce much more effective change in people, because through these, the human heart can be impacted, resulting in action and/or change. The more angelic-style, intellectual approach is not so effective with humans.

Also, improving the human quality of life has been largely focused on the individual "self": Self-improvement, self-realization, salvation of myself, the "self-made man", etc. Where do we find schools teaching how to become the effective and virtuous subjects and objects which make up every social structure in our lives? Certainly, we can appreciate the family as the "school of love", but we need to transfer our experiences in the family to a much bigger environment.

In all fairness, some cultures are much worse at this than others. But, we cannot deny that too many people are abandoning their beloved parents in warehouses called nursing homes when they perceive their individual happiness and comfort potentially being threatened. This is not to ignore those who really do need nursing care, but many who end up in nursing homes do not need specialized, professional care. It has become a symptom of a distorted humanity.

Instead of trying to cultivate ourselves to become people who can make marriages and families more successful and joyful, we go the other way and protect our independence with pre-nuptial agreements, contracts and long-term care insurance.

Instead of encouraging the cultivation of virtue in society, we try to make up for the lack of it with endless lawmaking, seeking to control every nuance of our neighbor's lives through laws and courts.

Instead of trying to create a virtuous society in which people genuinely trust each other and are trustworthy, we create intrusive, gigantic spy agencies which monitor our every movement, conversation, email, text and tweet.

Do you see where this is heading? We are suffocating and drowning ourselves due to our excessively individualistic, angelic DNA.

What can be done about it?

To discern and separate out the angelic DNA in all of us, we first need to contrast it with the pure Adamic perspective. Where do we get that? We can only get it from Adam. Jesus was called Adam by St. Paul²² and compared with the first, unsuccessful Adam. Jesus was the first successful Adam in human history, as an individual. He demonstrated none of the angelic qualities of which we have spoken here, except, as we said, he taught that fallen mankind is subject to temporal marriage, and also he was a celibate man, although the “marriage of the lamb” was foretold and intended for him, as was also mentioned. Jesus implored, and even commanded us, to become like himself.³⁰ He knew how angelic we had become and came as the first truly Adamic man for us to learn from and be saved by.

The reason Jesus spoke of temporal marriage is because he was prevented from opening the way to eternal, divine marriage due to his own untimely death as a single man. Through the “marriage of the lamb”, which should have happened 2000 years ago, the victorious Adam was to open the way to eternal, divine marriage for all of humanity.

This is underscored by the fact that Adam needs Eve for the full plan of God to unfold. Adam also needs Eve for his own greater fulfillment and completion and to propagate the divine, human lineage which God had sought from the beginning. Women need to experience the Divine Feminine in substance in order to transform themselves into resonant daughters of God. Eve also

needs Adam for her own fulfillment and perfection, as well. They are each complete in their becoming “one”.

Why should they become “one”? Because in God, all of the attributes that He has manifested in us are “one”. God is “one”. Thus, for us to resemble and resonate with the living God, we must become as “one”. That “oneness” must ultimately be manifested as a “oneness” of mind and body, husband and wife, parents and children, subject and object, etc. Eventually, the whole of our experience of life should become as “one”.

This is not to be understood on an intellectual level alone. This must manifest on the heartistic level, where God dwells in us. All of the human virtues described by Jesus, and others, must become the very substance of our being; not just something “religious” or peripheral to our lives. The stubborn individualism and relatively shallow view of love, common in humanity and exemplified in our narrative of Dave and Christi, must be purged from the mature human experience.

How to do this is described in clear, practical and systematic steps through the teachings of Father Moon. Each of us literally needs to transform ourselves from being the angelic beings we have become into the heartistic and divine children of God who genuinely and sincerely live for the sake of others. Thus, the Adamic viewpoint is critically important in order for us to discern the unwanted angelic viewpoints we harbor, and then to purge them from our persona.

Even more important than this discernment and subsequent purging process is the magical “engrafting” which St. Paul spoke about in the Bible²³. Jesus is called the “Tree of Life”²⁴. This is a

living tree. It is meant to have buds and shoots and new branches. It is not meant to be a dead tree. The buds and branches were to be Jesus' spiritual and physical offspring,²⁵ and all those who are cut off from the old "Tree of Death" (the lineage of the first Adam) and literally made a living part of the new "Tree".

For this engrafting process, Jesus (the new Adam) also needs his new Eve. As was stated, Jesus was to marry and create a new lineage of descendants into which all of mankind would eventually engraft through marriage. It is for this reason that the book of Revelation speaks of the "Marriage of the Lamb"²⁶. It was not to be the marriage of Jesus to his church, unless the reader takes that to mean his disciples. It is actually referring to Jesus' literal marriage. This is how Jesus was originally to "rule over the house of Jacob, and of his kingdom there will be no end."²⁷ His earthly kingdom, which was clearly and repeatedly prophesied²⁸, was to be perpetuated by Jesus' descendants; not by force or tyranny, but because mankind would eventually insist that it be so.

Since Jesus was killed before he was able to marry and perpetuate the Tree of Life through his descendants, he and the Holy Spirit stand as the spiritual "True Parents" for all reborn and adopted Christian "children". Jesus will complete his messianic mission through a man and a woman whom he calls and ordains for that very purpose.

In studying the life and ministry of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, it is clear he was called to fulfill that very mission. Father Moon was visited by Jesus at the age of 15 and asked to complete Jesus' unfinished mission to begin the literal and physical engrafting, and establish the foundations for God's earthly kingdom. Rev. Moon

raised his wife to fulfill the long-sought role of Eve, and together they began the “redemption of the body”²⁹ spoken of by St. Paul, and the literal engrafting process which Jesus spoke about 2000 years ago through their unique authority and through large group wedding ceremonies conveying this unprecedented grace. They were called and have fulfilled the roles of the new Adam and Eve for the healing and engrafting of humanity. This discourse is a result of their insight and life course.

No one could expect you to believe that proposition at face value. You must investigate carefully and confirm it for yourself, as the author of this book has, over a period of 38 years. Second-hand opinions and “googling” will not suffice. The contemporary scribes and Pharisees will tell you they are charlatans and heretics. That is to be expected. Those who have eyes to see and ears to hear will know otherwise. Seek to know and you will find the answers you seek. God wants you to know and to be fully transformed into His pure and perfected son or daughter.

With the Adamic viewpoint given to fallen mankind once again, even more clearly and comprehensively than ever before, and with the opportunity to literally engraft ourselves into the restored Adamic lineage, mankind will soon see a new world unfolding before it. It will take several generations to complete. Our immediate choice will be to either become part of the solution, or remain part of the problem.

The New Dave and Christi

David and Christi had always felt an unexplainable attraction for each other. They came from very different backgrounds. Dave grew up in America; his father from an Irish Catholic family near Chicago, and his mother from a Jewish French family in Philadelphia. Christi was born south of the border to a Hispanic father and an Asian mother. Their differences were enchanting to them both. They harbored no racial feelings, having come from such mixed cultures.

Dave's boyhood experiences were rich in heart, thanks mostly to his Jewish mother. She smothered all of her 9 children with her affection and passion, not to mention lots of chicken soup. She taught them all rich values of love, respect, honesty, and what was "Kosher". The lessons stuck with Dave, as learned them and practiced them from when he was a child.

The faith traditions of his parents gave Dave some unique experiences as he grew up. Neither the Catholic community nor the Jewish community really accepted his family with open arms, but as they would participate from time to time in both cultures, Dave grew to appreciate them both and could easily stand with one leg in one tradition and the other leg in the other. He was comfortable with it all. He could see that there was only one God, anyway.

Christi had a rich childhood, also, albeit quite different from Dave's. Her mother was always close to her, protecting her and trying to instill in her the ethical mindset of her own background. Her father was passionate and hot-blooded, finding his passion in friends and family and communicating it with lots of hugs and back slaps.

Dave and Christi found fascination in each other. Not only that, but when Dave graduated from high school, he spent two years with the Peace Corps in Guatemala, laughing and dancing and crying with families and children who barely knew what a toothbrush was. This gave him a special connection with Christi, since she grew up closer to that living reality than Dave.

As they spent more and more time together, Dave fell more in love with Christi. But, despite what everyone around him was saying about sex, Dave just couldn't get enough of Christi's heart and sparkling eyes and smile. She was everything in life for him. And, his love was so innocent. This is what captured the heart of Christi. She adored his innocent heart toward her, and the way he treasured her as a person, and not as a sex toy.

Of course they got married, but they both came to the altar with all of their pure hearts to give each other. They had not "played the field" and had no interest in "practicing married life". They just wanted to give all they had to each other. He was really not thinking of what he would receive in the marriage. He was only thinking of how he could love her and make her happy. She was the same. They were in it with both feet.

They each found jobs. They weren't college grads, so Dave found work in a car repair shop, and Christi cleaned houses for a

few old ladies. Since she grew up around her grandparents, she had a heart for old people, and they loved her for it. The newlyweds didn't care so much about the fact that they didn't have white collar jobs. They were getting by, and they had each other. She would sometimes call him at work and arrange to meet him for lunch at a small café next to his shop. Dave was often thinking about her while changing tires and fixing flats.

It wasn't long before children came along. They eventually had five; two boys and three girls. Dave was such a happy father. With the birth of their first child, Christi would sometimes slip away into another room, hiding a warm tear as she watched her husband play with the baby for hours on the floor after work.

Christi invested as much as she could in her children when she didn't have to be at work. She tried to be a stay-at-home mom, but she had to work because Dave just couldn't get a good enough job to support the family. When the kids were all away at school, she had more time to contribute her share of the support.

They didn't have a lot, but they had each other. What little budget they had seemed to go a long way at the nearby thrift stores. They found they could live well by frequenting Goodwill and others.

They had fun with each other's birthday parties, and Christi tried to make holidays fun, too. The children not only shared two small bedrooms with bunk beds, but they grew up being close to each other in other ways.

They also learned from their mom and dad that other people were important, too; not just those in their own family. When

neighbor kids needed someone to care for them, Christi was always available. Her door was always open. And, even if they were short on groceries, she would welcome people to eat lunch or dinner with them somehow always making the food stretch. Dave would often be found down the street, helping someone with a car problem. The children saw their parents sacrificing and working to support them, and they saw them living for others. This made a huge impression on the kids.

Sometimes they all packed up and went to Church. Well, in fact, sometimes they went to the old Catholic church down the street, and a few times they went to a nearby Synagogue. Having the variety of grandparents that they had, the kids were used to being with many different kinds of people. So, the kids felt far more comfortable in these environments than the people they were sitting with felt about them. For the kids, it was simple: God was God, and people were His children. No other distinctions need be made.

The children grew up with a healthy respect for those of the opposite sex. They loved their brothers and sisters, so other people seemed to naturally take a similar place in their lives. Academics were a challenge for some of them. Some were musical. Some were athletic. Some were artistic. Those who were better at one thing helped those who weren't. It was a healthy dynamic.

The kids really loved the rare occasions when grandma and grandpa came to visit. The kids gladly gave up their rooms and slept on the second-hand couches and floor. No one complained. It was family.

Dave took some night classes at a nearby vocational school and gradually worked his way up to some better jobs over the years. And, Christi kept doing what she could to help. They never found time or money for a vacation or anything like that. That was a dream; something for people in another world.

Eventually, one-by-one, the kids grew up and married off. The closeness they experienced with each other continued on. There was never an empty house. It seemed like one of the kids and their families were always visiting. Dave and Christi sometimes wondered if they would ever have a quiet, empty-nester life. But, it was not clear whether either of them really wanted that, anyway. The clan grew and grew, and Dave and Christi grew older and older, but they never drifted apart. In fact, they grew closer and closer, taking care of each other in their older years. They became one of those cute old couples that you always see together. They didn't know how to live without each other. They could not imagine what that would be like, and didn't even try. It was the furthest thing from their minds.

Even now, while they are no longer with us, their warmth and spirit fill the homes and hearts of their grown children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They are somehow still here, with us.

Footnotes

All Biblical references are taken from the Revised Standard Version of the *Holy Bible*. However, other versions generally maintain the same meanings.

- 1 Mal 2:15
- 2 Rom 8:19
- 3 Gen 1:27
- 4 Mat 5:48
- 5 Gen 1:28
- 6 1Jn 4:8
- 7 Heb 5:7-9
- 8 Gen 4:9
- 9 Mat 5:44
- 10 Mat 6:9
- 11 Gen 33:10
- 12 Gen 45
- 13 Gen 1:28
- 14 Gen 2:24; Mat 19:5
- 15 Gen 6:6
- 16 Rom 8:19
- 17 Jn 8:44
- 18 Luke 15:4, 15:20
- 19 Rev 19:7
- 20 Luke 1:33
- 21 Gen 4:9
- 22 1Cor 15:45
- 23 Rom 11:17

24 Rev 22:14

25 Jn 15:5

26 Rev 19:7

27 Luke 1:33

28 Is 9:6 and Mat 2:6

29 Rom 8:23

30 Jn 13:34

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