

Canadian Ambassadors for Peace Discuss the “Concept of God and Religions”

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Toronto, Canada—UPF-Canada held its monthly meeting for Ambassadors for Peace on the topic, “Concept of God and Religions,” on January 23, 2016.

Rev. Mitch Dixon, co-chair of UPF-Canada’s Central District, opened the meeting by speaking about the beliefs of different faiths with relation to God. He explained the beliefs of the Unification Church from a point of view of the Christian faith. Unificationist beliefs are derived from the Bible and are explained in the church’s text, the Divine Principle. It teaches that God is the Creator and Heavenly Parent, whose dual nature combines both masculinity and femininity, and whose center is true love. The Divine Principle is based on observations of the creation in order to understand the Creator. The purpose of creation and the purpose of life are to experience the joy of love: “In His original ideal, God wanted everyone to be perfected in love, able to give true and unconditional love to every human being and to the creation.”

The traditional concept of God in Judaism is strictly monotheistic. God is generally understood by Jews to be the absolute one, indivisible and incomparable being who is the ultimate cause of all existence. Jewish tradition teaches that the true aspect of God is incomprehensible and unknowable, and that it is only the revealed aspect of God that brought the universe into existence and interacts with humankind and the world. The one God of Israel is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who is the guide of the world and who delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and gave them the Law of Moses at Mount Sinai, as described in Torah.

Dr. Hoossen Auckberaullee, co-chair of the Central District, and Mr. Abdul R. Qureshi explained in similar language that monotheism, the belief in one God, is the most important and foundational concept in Islam. Muslims believe in one God who created the universe and has power over everything within it. He is unique and exalted above everything He creates, and His greatness cannot be compared to His

creation. Furthermore, He is the only one deserving of any worship and the ultimate purpose of all creation is to submit to Him. The Islamic understanding of God is distinct from all other religions and beliefs in various respects since it is based on a pure and clear understanding of monotheism. This essentially captures the concept of God in Islam.

Mr. Qamrul Khanson, the recording secretary of the Central District, read a verse in the Qur'an that describes the concept of God in Islam: "He (The Almighty God) is One, He is Absolute. He is neither born of anyone, nor anyone is born from Him, and there is no one like of Him" (chapter 112).

Ms. Rosalyn Okobia asked if the concept of God in Judaism, Christianity and Muslim is the same. Mr. Khanson explained that the God of Adam and Eve is one and that all three of the Abrahamic faiths believe in the same God who created the first human beings, and sent the Old Testament, New Testament and Last Testament.

Dr. Chae Hee Lee explained that God is the Father of humankind and all humans are His children.

Mr. Ahad Alavardi commented that if all religions speak their own beliefs then there would be no need for interfaith. A participant explained interfaith dialogue promotes the common values that different faiths share, rather than the core beliefs of individual faiths.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the Creator, Lord, God is one, but the various Abrahamic faiths may revere God differently. Everyone also agreed that we, all human beings, were created by God, and that while different faith segments of the Abrahamic religions view the relationship between God and humans differently in some ways, they are united on the belief that God is the Creator; He is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, as described in the Torah, Bible and Qur'an.

Dr. Moonshik Kim, chair of UPF-Canada, spoke about the upcoming marriage blessing ceremony and birthday celebration of UPF's founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, that will take place this month.

