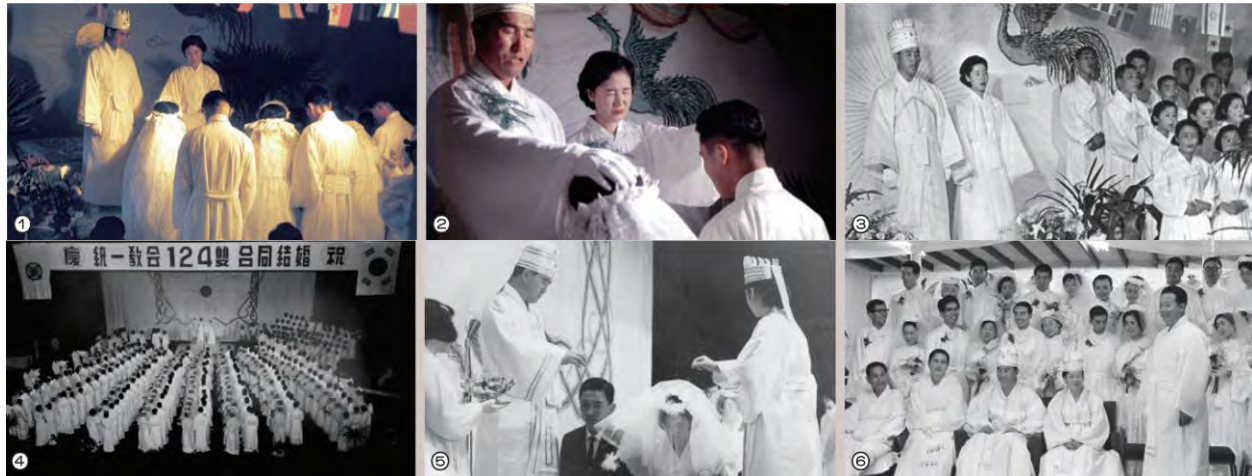


The marriage Blessing -- True Parents' Words on the Marriage Blessing and History of Blessed Families

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1. 3 Couples Marriage Blessing (16 Apr 1960, Original Cheongpa-dong Headquarters Church, Seoul)
2. 36 Couples Marriage Blessing (15 May 1961, Original Cheongpa-dong Headquarters Church, Seoul)
3. 72 Couples Marriage Blessing (4 Jun 1962, Original Cheongpa-dong Headquarters Church, Seoul)
4. 124 Couples Marriage Blessing (24 Jul 1963, Seoul Civic Auditorium)
5. 430 Couples Marriage Blessing (22 Feb 1968, Seoul Civic Auditorium)
6. 43 Couples Marriage Blessing with members 10 countries, stage 3 (1 May 1968, Tokyo Headquarters Church)

1. True Parents' Words on the significance of the marriage Blessing

"The marriage ceremony that takes place in the Unification Church is not limited to Unification Church members. Rather, it is a universal course that all humankind must take.

The fundamental cause to receive the Blessing is the Fall of the first human ancestors. Due to the Fall, human beings must go the course of restoration to reach God's realm of dominion. The ultimate destination is to restore true families. To achieve true families, true individuals and true people must emerge. And among those true people a true man and a true woman must emerge. The true man and the true woman must then find each other and form a union through the holy wedding centering on God. Only then can true families appear."

All people are fallen due to original sin, and it is True Parents' fundamental mission to save them. The centerpiece of this mission is the providence of the marriage Blessing, which eradicates original sin and fallen lineage. The marriage Blessing is the ceremony through which the evil lineage stained by Satan, is converted to the lineage of goodness rooted in God. It is the important ceremony that restores the order of love with God at the center, and eradicates the disordered love engendered by Satan through the Fall. The providence of the marriage Blessing, under the auspices of the True Parents, is the starting point for realizing the ideal of one family under God.

True Parents said that through the marriage Blessing, we need to establish the traditions of true husband

and wife, true parents, true children and true siblings, with true love at the center. They particularly emphasized that true love incorporates the rights of inheritance, equal status and shared participation. So the ideal of the kingdom of heaven can be realized when people inherit the tradition of the true love of God and True Parents through the marriage Blessing and disperse that tradition throughout their societies, nations and the world.

True Parents have made it clear that blessed families need to be concerned about and live for their tribe, their people, their nation and the world before their own family. When a blessed husband and wife honor each other as the person who stands in the position of God, they set the example for those around them. As such, blessed families are to take the lead in the restoration of their tribe, their nation, the world, and all of heaven and earth. True Parents organized them into trinities and emphasized that the couples in each trinity need to live together in the same house, experiencing the love of brothers and sisters. They are to establish the tradition of community life through which all people can live together and love one another, transcendent of nation, race and religion.

2. History of the Blessed Families

The marriage Blessing held by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) is a sacred rite during which couples vow to maintain true purity and build true families. FFWPU's marriage Blessing is True Parent's core mission. It is a holy and sacred ceremony where participating brides and grooms tie the knot as eternal husband and wife and vow to maintain true love, true life, and true lineage centering on Heavenly Parent.

True Parents officiated their first marriage Blessing attended by three couples on the 4.16 by the lunar calendar in 1960. Since then, Blessings have been carried out on the tribal, racial, national, and global levels through the Blessing ceremonies of 36 couples (1961), 72 couples (1962), 124 couples (1963), and 430 couples (1968) respectively. The ceremonies took on the aspects of an international marriage Blessing ceremony for the 777-couple Blessing (1970), 1800 Couples (1975), 2075 Couples (1982), and 6000 Couples (1982). Going further, a new era of Korean-Japanese cross-cultural Blessings began with the 6500-couple Blessing in 1988, 36 Second-Generation Couples (1986), 72 Second-Generation Couples (1989), 1275 Couples (1989) and 30,000 Couples (1992).

After the 360,000 couples Blessing (1995) it became possible to bless people in the spirit world. This brought about the era of a lineage of goodness through True Parents' love. On November 29, 1997, during the 40 Million Couples International Marriage Blessing, the Blessing ceremony was offered to spiritual beings for the first time, paving the way for the liberation of the spirit world and an environmental realm for the cosmic Blessing.

The marriage Blessings centering on True Parents passed through a period of providential development during which True Parents tore down the boundaries between the satanic world and the heavenly world opening the path to heaven. These Blessings included the 360 million couples