

Exposition and Commentary on

The Family Pledge

Blueprint for Completing God's Ideal of Creation -
Becoming God-Centered and Providential Families



Keith MacMurdie & Family
Edited by Tony Devine

Foreword

In a meeting of Blessed Central Families in Seattle, towards the end of 2019, I was asked to organize the topic for the convening. I picked Peace Message #14, “The Value and Significance of the Family Pledge” by Rev. Moon. This speech of twenty pages goes into depth on each of the eight articles of the Family Pledge. I had been studying this speech quite a lot as I felt that it contained precious content for Blessed Central Families.

It just so happened that my friend Keith MacMurdie was at that convening visiting from out of state. We were not able to talk after the meeting, however, later that day Keith called me and shared that he had been studying and writing about the Family Pledge. He also reminded me that the *Cheon Seong Gyeong* (CSG) book Sixteen, True Families and the Family Pledge has almost 200 pages of content and explanation on the Family Pledge. I immediately went to the CSG Book Sixteen and our family started doing daily readings with this material. I was totally amazed at the richness of the content and the deep insights and nuggets of truth contained in these pages. I called Keith and thanked him for turning me on to this wonderful content.

Subsequently, Keith having just completed the first draft of this document, asked if I could give it a look over. I was inspired with his approachable writing style. This began a collaborative process of going back and forth with draft after draft. Keith has produced a valuable and accessible booklet that can be helpful to Blessed Central Families in their understanding of the Family Pledge and how to incorporate its rich content into their daily lifestyles. I am sure that anyone who studies this will find it tremendously helpful and valuable.

Tony Devine

Preface

You may wonder, “Why study the Family Pledge?” We all know it, right? After all, many families have memorized it, often in more than one language, after repeating it hundreds of times. The more appropriate questions may be: “Do we understand the content and meaning of the Family Pledge?” and “Are we living it?”

Blessed Central Families represent the fruit of God’s tireless Providence to establish His lineage of true love on Earth. We are the first generations to be engrafted into His True Family. If we are to survive and develop as individual families and as a community that eventually blossoms into the culture of heart worldwide, we must set our roots deeply into the soil of God’s truth, righteousness, and goodness.

Why is there a tree on the cover of this exposition? I love natural metaphors. The study of botany teaches us that there are two conditions necessary for tree roots to grow deep. The first is sufficient water that penetrates the soil below the level of existing roots to draw them down. The second condition is, surprisingly, wind. The action of buffeting winds on the upper tree, stimulates the roots to grow deeper in order to hold fast to the earth.

True Father left behind the Eight Great Texts. Studying these words is watering our family tree. Insufficient and infrequent watering will cause the roots to stay near the surface and leave the tree susceptible to blowing over in violent storm. Some wind or challenge is needed in our lives. However, if our roots are not strong and deep, problems arise. Grounding ourselves and our families in God’s truth stabilizes our lives. God’s family must have deep roots.

The source material for this paper is primarily the *Cheon Seong Gyeong* (GSG) book Sixteen, True Families and the Family Pledge. This book is an amazing treasure for the education of our families. I encourage all families to read this book as part of your daily reading activities.

I started out studying the Family Pledge in order to educate myself and our family as to its meaning. That study took on a life of its own. Now, with the help of others, I am capping that study with this paper for general distribution to all Blessed Central Families. My hope is that it can help your family further understand the meaning of the many deeply profound and thought-provoking expressions contained within The Family Pledge.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to everyone who helped in creating this paper. I could not have produced it alone. Special thanks to Tony Devine for his brilliant editing, comments, and global perspective.

Keith MacMurdie

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“If you do not understand the Family Pledge, you will not understand the direction of the Providence. If you do not know the direction, you will experience confusion along the way.” CSG pg. 2375

Introduction

The Family Pledge was introduced to the world on May 1, 1994 by Rev. Sun Myung Moon (Rev. Moon) after the successful completion of the 40-year course to reestablish a worldwide foundation (see Historical Background, page 33). He declared it to be one of the Eight Great Texts. He prepared these books for the purpose of educating all humanity on God's Ideal of Creation. The Family Pledge encapsulates many of the key teachings from the entire work of the Eight Great Texts (The Family Pledge, Cheon Seong Gyeong, Peace Messages, The Sermons of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, True Family Gateway to Heaven, Owner of Peace - Owner of Lineage, Exposition of the Divine Principle, and World Scriptures).

Like most sacred scripture, The Family Pledge can be understood with increasing levels of complexity and meaning. Truth is at the same time both simple and deeply profound. New expressions of truth can be initially difficult to understand as prevailing ways of thinking may provide little in the way of reference. The Family Pledge contains many new expressions that are unfamiliar, yet once explained, their underlying truth becomes self-evident.

Rev. Moon introduced to the world many concepts and words that are new expressions of God's age-old universal truths that have been revealed through the religious founders and saints. The Family Pledge is where these key expressions come together to outline the path that anyone can follow in order to live fulfilling and meaningful lives in alignment with God's Ideal of Creation.

The Family Pledge is a new and contemporary revelation of God's truth yet it is built of timeless universal truths concerning family, lineage, homeland, peace, happiness, and love that resonate with all faith traditions and the consciences of all people regardless of religious affiliation. This was the purpose behind The Family Pledge to be a unifying vision for all people in establishing peaceful ideal families which are the basis of a peaceful ideal world.

Forty years after the start of my public ministry, I founded FFWPU (Family Federation for World Peace and Unification). In order to accomplish the goal of this federation, we need to have something like a constitution as an absolute regulation – The Family Pledge. There had never been such a term as Family Pledge throughout history. It is the Family Pledge that points us in the right direction and enables us to complete the heavenly kingdom. CSG pg. 2354

The Family Pledge explains what God's ideal world looks like and thus provides the vision of what we are to achieve. For this reason, it is both instructional and aspirational. Rev. Moon suggested that we recite the Pledge together as a family on a regular basis and at special occasions. The act of reciting the Pledge together is a valuable component for developing a family culture of devotion and it also reminds us regularly of God's Ideal of Creation and our responsibilities. Rev. Moon guided, "You must have pledge services in your families on the first and middle of every month" (CSG pg. 2362).

However, reciting the Family Pledge should not be an end in itself. The goal is to put into practice the content of the Family Pledge in our families and communities, living out the concepts in our daily lives. Studying and understanding the meaning of the Family Pledge is the first step. This is essential in building a God-centered family and creating a peaceful ideal world.

The Family Pledge is also a testament to the incredible life and work of Rev. Moon. In order to come to the deep revelation and understanding that is contained in the Eight Great Texts, Rev. Moon had to pass through countless trials and hardships. To become aware of God's situation, he needed to become the true object partner of God's heart. This brought him incredible joy to experience God's love so profoundly. It also was deeply sorrowful as he experienced the inconsolable sadness felt by our Heavenly Father at the loss of His family. He once said that upon understanding God's heart he cried for three straight days. As we read and study the Family Pledge, it's essential to keep in mind his incredible investment to bring this heavenly teaching to us.

Commonalities to all Commitments of the Pledge

As we begin our study of the Family Pledge, we will see that there are three common phrases to each of the eight commitments. These three concepts are central to Rev. Moon's thought and are key expressions to understanding God's Ideal of Creation.

“Centering on True Love”

The Pledge has the words “true love” in every verse. True love comes about based on unity. It is impossible to realize the ideal of the Family Pledge without uniting your mind and body, and without creating unity between husband and wife and children. 05-08-94

True love is the central article of the Family Pledge because true love is the fundamental pillar supporting God's purpose of creation. The question then is, “What is true love?” Rev. Moon spent most of his life answering this question with his thousands of public speeches!

“True” connotes being centered on God, having God's perspective. It is different from other loves as it is expressed by unconditionally, “living for the sake of others.” In the above quote, Rev. Moon explains in a very practical way what true love looks like. It is based on the three basic unities within a family. It begins inside each person by uniting one's mind and body. The next step is creating unity between a husband and wife followed by the unity of parents and children. These three unities, established with God as the center, form the basis of an ideal family of true love.

Uniting one's mind and body has been a consistent theme running through all religions. The believers of all faiths have wrestled with this problem as they strive for self-mastery. Rev. Moon taught that it is essentially a matter of subordinating the selfish desires of the body to the guidance of the mind through our altruistic conscience that is related to God. Our conscience continually guides us to act for the benefit of others. Acting upon such guidance will create the proper relationship between the mind as subject partner and the body as object partner. Living constantly in this way creates a character of true love by living for others. The unity of mind and body will be discussed further in Commitment #5.

A man and woman, each centered on God, who have developed their character of true love take the next step on the road to fulfillment of the Ideal of Creation by participating in the marriage Blessing. Applying the same principle of living for others to their relationship as husband and wife will ensure a deep unity and the growth of true love. The husband lives for his wife and the wife lives for her husband. Together they live for God and strive to fulfill His Ideal of Creation.

The third unity comes about as the couple bear and raise children. Parents live for the children and educate them in the ways to live for others. As they mature, children watching the model of their parents will learn the ways of filial piety. Children will reciprocate the love from their parents and a powerful unity centered on true love will be established. In all cases the unity between the entities is fulfilled by “living for the sake of others.” This important concept will be addressed and discussed more fully when we reach Commitment #7.

In addition to the three unities explained above, another key element Rev. Moon taught regarding true love is the principle of investing 100% for the sake of others. He said, “True love begins only when one can give and give and forget what one has already given.” The total commitment to selflessness was the starting point of God’s action of creation. It is, therefore, the key we must align with in order to develop true love ourselves and within our families.

“Our Family ... Pledges”

Spirituality is deeply rooted in who we are. For millennia, we have sought a connection to God. Through this we seek meaning and purpose for our lives. Religion has laid down many paths that would help us in our search. For the most part that search has been a solitary process focused on individual salvation or enlightenment. However, now we are in a new age and the path is now open to be walked by families. Human spirituality must now be seen through the lens of family. More precisely, our family is the connection with God. It is in familial relationships that we find true meaning, purpose, and joy. This is why the three unities mentioned previously are so important. Establishing these basic unities within the family is the foundation for experiencing God’s true love on an ongoing basis.

The phrase “our family pledges” means that the family is making the pledge and committing to actualize it in daily life. Prior to May of 1994, most of Rev. Moon’s followers recited a pledge each week that was titled “My Pledge.” The focus was on each person rededicating themselves to God’s Providence and acknowledging that God is the center of Providence. With the completion of the 40-year course, the Providence entered a new age - the age of the family. The issuing of the new Family Pledge was the marker to the start of God’s Providence to restore His Original Ideal of Creation that centered on creating God-centered families of true love. What this means is that there has been a seismic shift in the understanding of God’s work of universal salvation and the elevation of our spiritual consciousness.

Ever since man’s separation from God, He has been working to restore that lost relationship. Many faiths call this work salvation; however, Rev. Moon used the word restoration to describe this process in order to emphasize the point that God is trying to bring humanity back to fulfilling His original Ideal of Creation. That original Ideal was for the creation of a human

family filled with God's true love, true life, and true lineage. It is that original family that needs to be restored.

God used religion to educate and uplift the spiritual conscience of humanity. The world's religions, for the most part, have focused their attention on the individual's relationship with God. The extreme form being the monastic life where separation from the world and celibacy were the norm.

The revolution that Rev. Moon brought to the world of spirituality is the understanding that finding profound experience with God is not the sole domain of individuals. Rather, His all-encompassing, profound love is most fully experienced within the family. That is not to say that the individual's relationship with God is not essential. It certainly is and we can feel His love in that one-to-one relationship as He feels our love. God's purpose in creating humanity was to have an object partner to share love. He does share love with individuals; however, the fullest manifestation of His love is experienced in the multi-generational family.

As humans, we have thought of our relationship with God from our point of view in terms of what we might receive. Rev. Moon has opened our eyes to see from God's point of view. From God's perspective, it is far more fulfilling to develop a relationship of love with an entire family that is united with His ideal than just one individual. This will be explored more fully when we discuss Commitment #3.

“Owner of Cheon Il Guk”

This phrase was not part of the original Family Pledge. It was added in November of 2002. The Family Pledge was a living text that Rev. Moon modified several times as he emphasized key elements of God's Ideal of Creation and the developments of God's Providence.

The term “Cheon Il Guk” was coined by Rev. Moon. It means the “Nation of Cosmic Peace and Unity” or an Ideal Nation. He also referred to it as the place where “two become one.” As we will see in Commitment #1, God's Ideal of Creation includes a Kingdom of God on Earth as well as in the spiritual world (Heaven). This is why Jesus prayed for God's kingdom to come “on earth as it is in heaven.” Rev. Moon often mentioned the need for people, land, and a sovereignty of true love in creating a nation centered on God. Such a nation is the first step to moving all nations toward God's ideal of a peaceful world. His Kingdom is to be here on earth made up of true families with God's love as their central axis and guided by His universal principles and values. The Earthly kingdom can then become the Heavenly kingdom.

God's ideal is that both worlds are to be places where He can dwell with His loving family. As we become people who follow God's fundamental law of “living for the sake of others,” our planet can be restored as a home for the multitude of God-centered families. Such a transition requires responsible people taking ownership of God's ideal.

The first part of the phrase includes “as the owners.” The concept of ownership and responsibility are central in God's Ideal of Creation.

Why was a portion of responsibility given to human beings? God granted us the authority to take part in the work of creation and thereby bestowed upon us the value of becoming His object partner. This is an amazing fact. CSG pg. 1113

The term “human portion of responsibility” is important ... The position in which human beings complete their portion of responsibility would result in the fulfillments of God’s Ideal of Creation. CSG pg. 1125

The Family Pledge is not talking about “owning” Cheon Il Guk in a legal sense like you own a car or some other tangible object. **Ownership in this case is about taking responsibility for an idea, goal or dream and making it your own.** Ideas, goals, and dreams are intangible. To move them out of the realm of the mind into the tangible, physical world there needs to be belief, will, and then actions to make the goal substantial. Ownership, as it’s used here, refers to taking responsible actions to actualize God’s ideal of Cheon Il Guk—a world of peace and unity as one family under God.

Rev. Moon taught that God endowed human beings with a portion of responsibility in their own spiritual development. We develop as individuals by taking responsible action. Our families develop with unified responsible actions. Our families develop in line with the ideals of the Family Pledge by taking ownership of its content. Likewise, Cheon Il Guk will come about with the efforts of families taking ownership for its creation.

Each commitment of the Family Pledge reminds us that we are to be owners of Cheon Il Guk: Owners not as individuals but as families. We should act as owners, taking responsibility for its creation by applying our individual and family talents and passions to attend God and His Providence of building a nation and a world where God can reside with His family.

Commitment 1 – Build the Kingdom of God on Earth and in Heaven

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to seek our original homeland and build the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven, the original ideal of creation, by centering on true love.

Original Ideal of Creation

Rev. Moon’s answer to the fundamental questions about life such as its meaning and purpose was actually quite simple and logical. The beginning premise is that God is a Being of heart. He was moved to create in order to have a partner with whom He could share joy and love. Human beings and their families were created to be that partner.

God is the Original Being of love, and out of love He created human beings. A solitary being cannot love. Therefore, there is one thing that even God absolutely needs: a partner whom He can love. He can only love in a relationship with a counterpart. God, the Original Being of love and heart, created the universe with love as His motivation. World Scriptures (WS) pg. 43

Love finds its fullest expression in the family so God’s Ideal of Creation is to build a family of true love. A family where individuals love God; husband and wife love each other; and

parents love children all with the selfless love of God. God could dwell with such a family and His ideal of sharing love would be realized.

God's Ideal of Creation is all about experiencing true love in the family and then amplifying that love into the surrounding community, nation, and world. Each family is to be a building block for God's Kingdom of Heaven and is thus endowed with tremendous value.

Despite the fact that human beings were not able to establish a family of true love at the dawn of history, God has not abandoned us or His Will to create a world that reflects His Ideal. He perseveres with a loving heart towards His children as He knows that eventually His Ideal of Creation will be realized.

Build the Kingdom of God on Earth and in Heaven

The Family Pledge begins by explaining where we are going. It shows the big picture of the environment. We are to seek the original homeland, a physical place—a country, where we will begin to build God's kingdom on Earth. We are to go this way because it is part of God's original Ideal of Creation. Seek and build are verbs. They denote action. The first commitment of the Pledge is a call to action. We are to build God's kingdom. It is not going to be built by God alone. We are His children made in His image. We have the dignity and freedom to fulfill our responsibility of being co-creators in achieving God's dream of a world of peace and true love.

A number of world religions are awaiting God's kingdom. Their view is that it will be built in some miraculous manner by God Himself. This is not in accordance with God's Ideal of Creation or His work of restoration. The reason we do not live in an ideal world now is not because God erred. Human beings did not fulfill their responsibility. In the process of restoring the ideal and building God's kingdom, we must do our part in fulfilling our portion of the gift of responsibility in combination with the guidance and support of God.

Seek our Original Homeland

What are we seeking? What is the original homeland like?

The original homeland is where we want to live forever amid the joy of heaven and earth, singing joyfully, while taking dominion over all things immersed in the love of parents and children. CSG pg. 2397

The original homeland is a place of true peace. It is a place where our God-centered families can settle, rest, and expand into all the facets of life such as physical prosperity, governance, and education. With our creativity, centered on God and true love, we can establish God's sovereignty in all nations. Such nations will have the proper working balance of God-centered systems such as governance, economy, health, education, science and technology, security, agriculture, energy, legal, media the environment, etc. These systems will work in harmony when centered on God, true love, and universal principles and values, much like the systems in our bodies, centered on the mind.

The original homeland will be a world without borders where people travel freely and interact centered on matters of the heart. It is a world governed by a culture of heart (Commitment #7). It is a world of goodness and selflessness; a place where all families live by the maxim to “live for the sake of others.” It is the place where God and humanity find partners of true love; where God and humankind are united in oneness centered on true love resulting in great joy and happiness for everyone.

Mankind has longed, since the beginning of time, for an original homeland that offers a place where peace, freedom, unity and happiness are the norms; and where families prosper in an environment of love. This is because it is part of who we are as God’s children. Humanity may have separated from God but we cannot separate from His original purpose for our creation. Our original nature and original mind may be buried, nevertheless, they draw us toward God and His ideal. Just like the internal mechanism of a plant guides it to turn to the sunlight, we are drawn to seek higher versions of ourselves, our families, and the world. The original homeland we aspire to is where all our longing for love and God’s longing for love are united and fulfilled.

Commitment 2 – Attend God and Become Divine Sons and Daughters

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to represent and become central to heaven and earth by attending God and True Parents; we pledge to perfect the dutiful family way of filial sons and daughters in our family, patriots in our nation, saints in the world, and divine sons and daughters in heaven and earth, by centering on true love.

Commitment # 1 is about God’s Ideal of Creation and the goal of building God’s Kingdom on earth and in Heaven. In the second commitment, we begin to see how that is accomplished. If we are to build a God-centered world of true love, it stands to reason that the first step is becoming God-centered individuals.

The first part of the Commitment #2 calls us to attend God. By doing so we will become central to Heaven and Earth. The second part describes the process of attending God starting as filial sons and daughters in the family and progresses to divine sons and daughters in Heaven and Earth.

Attending God and True Parents

Developing a relationship with God and taking initiative to engage with God may be the single most important concept in the Family Pledge. Cultivating the relationship with God as individuals and families is the starting point and baseline for an individual, family, and world seeking true love. From the relationship of true love with God comes the impulse to attend Him and His Providential Will. Once proper attendance to God is set within the individual and family, all goodness follows naturally.

I invite you to enter into a transcendent state and prayerfully ask God, “What is the center of the universe?” The answer you hear will undoubtedly be, “the parent–child relationship.” Nothing is more important or more precious than the relationship between parent and child. This is because it defines the fundamental relationship between the Creator God and human beings. Peace Message #1

Attendance and service are often used synonymously. However, service has a meaning that tends more to externalities; whereas attendance, as is used here, has a much more internal meaning. Attending God is about developing a deep parent-child relationship of love. It also connotes great humility and gratitude in acknowledging that God is the Creator and the center of His Providence; our loving Heavenly Father who has worked through civilization to achieve the purpose of creation in creating ideal families and a world of One Family Under God.

Why should we live a life of attendance? It is to receive God’s love. CSG pg. 992

Among all bonds of relationships, the standard is the parent-child relationship established between God and human beings. The heart coming from this bond cannot be undermined by the authority of any being and is eternal, unchanging, and unique. CSG pg. 987

God is not a fantasy or a conceptual God, nor is He an abstract God. With His leadership in our daily life, He is always with us as the master of our daily circumstances. He does not just receive attendance but is living together with us by sharing love. This sounds like a dream. CSG pg. 991

The idea of living together with God may seem like a dream because up until now humanity has been separated from God. Nevertheless, God is close to us. When we make the effort to attend Him, a relationship is formed and over time it will grow and mature. We need to fuel that relationship with study, *jeongseong* (pg. 22), prayer, and service. As we do, we will come to know our Heavenly Father more fully. We will experience His love, His joys, and His sorrows. Our relationship with God will empower our lives and be the source of strength to accomplish our goals and His ideal of creation.

Represent and Become Central to Heaven and Earth

God’s Ideal of Creation was to have begun with one family. That first family was to be the seed from which all others would grow as part of God’s lineage. That ancestral family centered on God would become the representative of all families by upholding the standard of God’s true love. The true love manifested within that representative family would be the model and example for others to emulate in their own unique ways. Also, that family would become the central family around which all families would unite and move toward expanding God’s kingdom on Earth and then in Heaven.

Blessed Central Families are the fruits of God’s work of restoration. They are called to be representative or model families that manifest in our daily lives the true love of God. We do so by displaying the unity between our mind and body, between husband and wife, and between parents and children. As Blessed Central Families manifest those qualities, people will recognize

them and automatically lift them to become central families. Such families then have responsibilities toward others, guiding and leading them to accomplish the same for themselves.

Dutiful Family Way of Filial Piety in the Family

The concept of attendance is intertwined with that of filial piety. Filial piety is a foundational universal principle found in all religions and taught in all the sacred texts. In a general sense, filial piety means to be good to one's parents, take care of them, follow their advice, and show love and respect. Rev. Moon taught a deeper meaning of filial piety as it pertains to God's purpose and Ideal of Creation.

... Yet there is more; the path of parent's true love leads to a relationship with the invisible God. Unity with your parents connects you with both realms of heart – invisible as well as visible, vertical as well as horizontal history. That is why your parents teach you to become a filial child. World Scripture pg. 937

True filial piety finds its maturity in relation to God. The process of growth begins with children relating to their parents. As children learn to attend their parents, they are learning to attend God. As parents model the way of filial piety and attendance to God, children are watching and then emulating that in their own lives.

The key to becoming a filial person according to Rev. Moon is the ability to sacrifice one's self for a greater good. The concept of sacrifice connotes the act of giving up something of value to you in order to benefit someone else. This may seem that you are losing in the transaction, however, the opposite is true. When the act of sacrifice is an expression of true love it is transformative for the person giving and for the one receiving. Both grow in love and heart experiencing joy in the process.

“Sacrificing is the only way to find love ... Those who do not know sacrifice cannot become filial children, or anything else.”

The ability to sacrifice requires a level of spiritual maturity and self-mastery. This is why the first unity between mind and body is essential. It is the foundation for all else as we travel the road toward perfection and an ideal world.

As a filial child, there are certain expectations and responsibilities that are inherent in that position. To fulfill those expectations, one must be responsible and have a sense of ownership and true love on the individual and family level. That family level of ownership can be expanded into caring for our extended families and our communities.

Patriots in the Nation, Saints in the World

As a patriot to the nation, minds and hearts are expanded to embrace the nation's situation and be responsible and take ownership in serving the needs of the nation. The same is true in moving to the level of saint to the world. All the religious founders felt God's love for all

people of the world. What made them very special is that they manifested that love by taking responsible actions in leading others through word and deed thus making positive contributions to improving the world for all. They demonstrated a profound sense of ownership and true love that changed the world in fundamental and far reaching ways.

Divine Sons and Daughters in Heaven and Earth

Our highest aspiration is to pass through the levels of individual, patriot, and saint to arrive at Divine Sons and Daughters. This is the position God intended for all His children from the moment He began the process of creation. The position of Divine Son and Daughter requires us to take responsible actions and ownership in attending God and His Providential Will to fulfill the Ideal of Creation and build His Kingdom of Heaven on Earth (Commitment #1). This is the ultimate in attendance to our Heavenly Father.

True parents do not teach their children that it is enough to have filial piety while ignoring the needs of the country. They teach them, "Go the way of patriots and serve your nation, even at the sacrifice of your family. Go the way of saints and live for the sake of the world, even at the sacrifice of your nation. Seek the welfare of Heaven and earth, even if you must give up the world; and even if you have to give up heaven and earth, seek for God." Just as an individual does his filial duty by putting his family's welfare ahead of himself, to become a patriot he must put the welfare of the nation ahead of his family. To become a saint, he must put the salvation of the world ahead of his own nation, and to become a divine son, he must establish God's Kingdom in heaven and on earth even at the sacrifice of everything in the world. WS pg. 980

Commitment 3 – Develop the Full Potential of Ideal Families

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to perfect the Four Great Realms of Heart, the Three Great Kingships and the Realm of the Royal Family, by centering on true love.

Four Great Realms of Heart

Webster defines realm as "the region, sphere, or domain within which anything occurs, prevails, or dominates." What then is a realm of heart? We could say it is a sphere or domain within which the culture of heart and true love thrives. What do we mean by heart?

Simply stated, heart, or God's heart (Korean word *shimjung*) is His irrepressible impulse to seek joy through love. It lies at the very core of His being and motivation for creation.

What is God's heart? It refers to God's perfect foundation for love. All of God's creatures welled up from His heart, as did all the ideals for them. Thus, God's heart is the perfect foundation for everything. God's heart also springs forth into the perfect completion of everything. There can be no perfection or completion apart from God's heart. WS pg. 42

Rev. Moon describes the Four Realms of Heart as: children's, siblings, husband and wife, and parents. In the first case children seek joy through loving their parents. Even young babies do this though their love is immature. Nevertheless, they reach out to give in whatever manner they can. Even giving a smile or giggle will evoke a loving response. In the second case, brothers and sisters give and take love and joy as they grow together. The next level is the realm of husband and wife. The final stage is giving birth to children and experiencing parental love.

We can see the chronological development in the four realms. We should be aware that one realm does not stop developing as another begins. They all continue to evolve, grow deeper and stronger over time as children and siblings become adults and parents become grandparents.

Experiencing each realm of heart is a step which develops us into fully mature people in regard to true love. Rev. Moon often used the image of a sphere describing the various realms. These four realms are the axes that define a sphere: up and down, side to side, and front to back. The central meeting point of the axes is God's true love. God is to dwell at the center of the family that has perfected these four realms of heart.

Admittedly, this is aspirational but not unattainable. As we look at families we may see some elements of the four realms of heart in practice. However, for the most part we do not. In order to accomplish a goal, we must first clearly define it, and then put it into practice. This is what the Family Pledge is all about.

Three Great Kingships

Kingship, as used in The Family Pledge, is not about a sovereign who rules based on physical lineage, wealth, and power. In the context of God's Ideal of Creation, a Kingship is established through fulfilling responsibilities and becoming united with God's true love. The Three Kingships referred to here are the Kingships of grandparents, parents and children. These Kingships are established when each comes to exemplify God's universal principles and values such as sacrifice, service, and ownership according to their respected positions.

In God's original Ideal of Creation, the substance of true love is developed through the Four Realms of Heart. The structure or basic framework within which that love grows and blossoms is the three-generational family. True love has a structure. It is the multi-generational family. Generally speaking, in the West there is primary emphasis on the nuclear family, that is, parents and children as the basic unit of society. God's Ideal of Creation calls for the extended multi-generational family centered on true love as its basis.

God's Ideal of Creation was designed to perpetuate the true love developed in a family on into the future by first establishing true love through three generations. This passing of true love through time represents, in the deepest sense, the beautiful ideal of Three Great Kingships within the family.

The three generations of grandparents, parents, and children represent the past, present, and future respectively. Grandparents also represent God and the spirit world. Their love and wisdom is deep. Parents represent the present as they build, work and raise children in the here and now. The children represent the future as they grow, inherit the family culture, and become the doorway into the future. Grandchildren are unique in that they receive love from two generations. In loving their grandchildren, grandparents complete and perfect their love.

Originally there was God the first Creator; then Adam and Eve the second creators; and then their children the third creators. Each succeeding generation participates in the act of creation which is the culmination of the four realms of heart.

Most can recognize the Three Great Kingships in the form of grandparents, parents, and children. In addition, there is another expression of this framework found in the form of God, father, and elder son. This is so because it is the way lineage is passed on. As God's son, Adam carried the seed of God's true love in his blood lineage. God's lineage of true love was to be passed to the next generation through Adam's marriage and manifested substantially in his children. His elder son would then pass family authority and true love on to his elder son. This process of passing on God's lineage of true love was the mechanism to spread God's lineage, life and true love to all of humanity. Rev. Moon's words:

Centering on the lineage passed down through the elder son's line, this foundation of heart will be passed on into the eternal future ... CSG pg. 2450

Realm of the Royal Family

In the previous section, the word "kingship" was used. This is a word with an excepted or conventional understanding but used in The Family Pledge in a different way with a different meaning. This is also the case with the use of the term Royal Family.

When we think of a royal family, the Queen of England and her family may come to mind. This royal family is made up of her direct and extended family. She was born into it as were her family members. Being part of that family is limited by physical lineage and marriage.

The Realm of the Royal Family that the Family Pledge is speaking about is a universal family that is open to all of God's children. This is a family united by God's life, God's true love, and God's true lineage.

In the Queen's royal family, members are added by happenstance of birth. To be part of God's Royal Family a conscious decision is required. That is, human beings have a portion of responsibility to fulfill in order to enter and remain a part of the Realm of the Royal Family. The first ancestors had such a responsibility but did not accomplish it. As a result, humanity did not become the co-creators of an ideal world centered on God's true love and true lineage. God's Kingdom and His Royal Family was not established at that time.

The mistakes that occurred in the first family caused a separation from God and His Ideal of Creation. This resulted in the realm of Satan's family and lineage. All of those mistakes must be corrected by reversing those actions within the family. This is not something God can do. Human beings must do their part in fulfilling their portion of responsibility. Once that is done we can move on to fulfilling God's Ideal of Creation.

One of the mistakes within the first family was the action of Cain killing his brother Abel. To reverse this action Cain must love and serve Abel. Rev. Moon discovered that history has been the process of fulfilling this providential dynamic between Cain and Abel. From individual lives, to families, and on up to the world level, this archetypal relationship plays out continually until the mistakes of the past are rectified and Providential progress can resume.

Creating and expanding the Realm of the Royal Family is essentially about the people who understand relatively more about God's Will and Providence (Abel), reaching out to educate those who understand less (Cain). Through love and service, Abel brings Cain to the point where he too can understand God's Will and make a conscious decision to be part of God's True Family. This allows both to participate in God's providential work of creating God-centered families and establishing one universal family under God. This is the expansion of The Realm of the Royal Family. It spreads organically family to family and eventually encompasses all mankind.

To stimulate the expansion of the Realm of the Royal Family, Rev. Moon encouraged us to reach out and educate family, friends, and neighbors regarding God's Ideal of Creation. He taught us the concept of "Home Church" which is the broadening of our own family into a larger circle of an extended spiritual family and community.

As we develop the Four Realms of Heart and build the Three Great Kingships in our own families, it is natural that our lifestyle of true love with its expression of investing in and living for others will move and guide us to reach out to those in the community around us thus expanding families who can exemplify true love. People will see and be inspired by the example of family love and unity. Because everyone wants to live in a family of peace and love, this will lead them to seek new insights and connect with families doing the same.

The Realm of the Royal Family also refers to the environment in which we live. It is to be a peaceful world centered on God's love in all aspects of society (see Commitment #1 Original Homeland). That Kingdom is not for only a few people. God longs for all His children to return and live with Him.

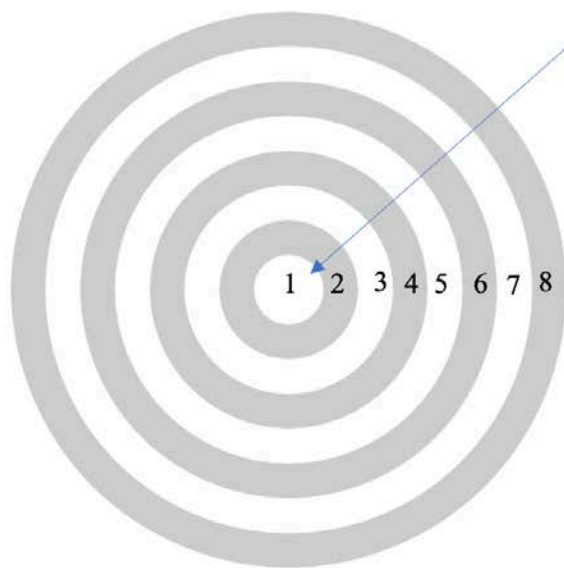
Centering on the family united in this way, other families in the fallen world should also, in turn, become one with it. This unity is what we mean by "the realm of the royal family." CSG pg. 2462

Simply stated, the Realm of the Royal Family is the place where the Four Realms of Heart and the Three Great Kingships have been established beginning in a God-centered family. It is the place where true love has settled in the family, opening the road to the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth for all families through connecting to God's life, love, and lineage.

Visualizing the Family Pledge

Let's pause a moment in the study of the details of The Family Pledge in order to maintain an overall perspective. Each of the 8 Commitments of The Family Pledge is made up of profound concepts that Rev. Moon uses to explain God's Ideal of Creation. While we are examining each of the concepts, it may be helpful for the reader to visualize The Family Pledge as a whole so as not to lose perspective of the forest while examining each tree.

Think of a bull's-eye target with its concentric rings. Each of the eight Commitments represents one of the rings surrounding the center. Here are the labels or simplified content of each of the Commitments:



At the center is Commitment # 1 – God; our Creator and author of The Ideal of Creation.

Commitment #2 – Becoming an individual centered on God.

Commitment #3 – Developing a family centered on God.

Commitment #4 – Creating the world family under God.

Commitment #5 – Uniting the cosmos (physical and spiritual worlds) under God.

Commitment #6 – Embody God, channeling blessings to others.

Commitment #7 - Develop the culture of heart by living for others.

Commitment #8 – Living with God in true love.

Commitment 4 – Create One Universal Family under God

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to build the universal family encompassing heaven and earth, which is God's ideal of creation, and perfect the world of freedom, peace, unity and happiness, by centering on true love.

Universal Family Encompassing Heaven and Earth

God is the Creator and Parent of all humanity. Just as our children are made from the elements from us as parents, we are made from the elements of God. There is such a wide variety within the human race because there are infinite variables within God. We are all children of God so by extension we are all brothers and sisters.

If one member of a family is having difficulties, the other family members feel a desire to help. This naturally arises from the bonds of love developed within the family (Four Realms of Heart). Throughout the world there is a great deal of suffering caused by many problems such as war, sickness, and unequal distribution of wealth and resources. Humanity has not been able to ultimately solve these problems due to a lack of familial bonds within the human family. The lack of loving bonds is caused by an absence of empathy towards others rooted in separation from God's love and a lack of understanding regarding God's Ideal of Creation. These are the very fundamental problems that must be addressed.

Rev. Moon's teachings address these problems. The Family Pledge is the blueprint for understanding God's purpose for humanity and His ideal of true love realized by living for the sake of others. By practicing these ideals, there is real hope that change can come to the world, that we can become One Family Under God. The universal family on earth would then become the universal family in Heaven as well.

World of Freedom, Peace, Unity and Happiness

Freedom, peace, unity, and happiness are universal values because God created human beings to be free, live in peace, unite harmoniously with others, and live happy lives. God endowed these values in His children not as ends in themselves but as the means to fulfill His Ideal of Creation and become one with His true love.

Today's world longs for freedom and peace, however, the fundamental truth is that "without **true** love there is no freedom, peace, unity, and happiness." The qualifier "true" is used to connote love that is rooted in God because He created the universe and more specifically, His children, motivated by heart and true love.

Rev. Moon explained that world leaders try to achieve the ideals of freedom, peace, unity, and happiness using power, knowledge, and wealth but are unsuccessful because those external elements cannot be the basis for lasting peace and happiness.

True peace and happiness are attained only in conjunction with true love. Genuine peace and infinite happiness can only be gained when we serve others with true love, which goes around and then comes around in one full circle. CSG pg. 2482

What the world fails to see is that the answers to the biggest world problems lie right in front of our eyes! The answer is in the family and the creation of a God-centered family.

Today's problems should be solved by the ideology based on the ideal of the true family, centered on true parents and on God's ideology of true love. CSG pg. 2482

There is much discussion today regarding human rights and freedoms. This is a sign of the elevation of human spiritual consciousness through God's work of restoring humanity's understanding of His Ideal of Creation. Humanity is coming to understand that our essential freedoms and human rights emanate from the Creator God and are inalienable. No secular government or entity has the right to take them away. Freedom and responsibility are interwoven. As people continue to gain these human rights and exercise their freedoms they must act responsibly guided by God's Ideal of Creation in order to build a world of peace, unity, and happiness.

The universal aspirations of freedom, peace, and happiness are all realized only on the foundation of unity and family. Why? These ideals are relational. They occur as a result of the interaction between a subject and an object such as within ourselves, between family members, and between people in communities and nations. Unless there is unity or harmony between the two entities, no ideals can emerge.

Unity and unification were constant themes for Rev. Moon because unity is the prerequisite for the development of true love and the realizing of God's Ideal of Creation. As discussed earlier, Rev. Moon explained that true love "looks like" unity between mind and body, husband and wife, and parents and children centered on God. These relationships are the foundational elements that make for a world of freedom, peace, unity, and happiness. A world with these values begins with the individual, moves to the family, community, and so on until reaching the world level. Actualizing One Family Under God begins with the commitment to achieving peaceful individuals and peaceful families.

Commitment 5 – Unify Spirit and Physical Worlds

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to strive every day to advance the unification of the spirit world and the physical world as subject and object partners, by centering on true love.

Advance the Unification of the Spirit World and the Physical World as Subject and Object Partners

Rev. Moon taught extensively about the reality of the spiritual world and its relationship with the physical world. You could say that he is the world's foremost expert on the subject! The *Cheon Seong Gyeong* (Books 5 and 6) contain nearly 450 pages of Rev. Moon's words regarding

the spiritual world. Readers are encouraged to study Rev. Moon's words on the subject as a first step in being able to fulfill this Commitment. In this Commitment, we are called to advance the unification of the spiritual and physical worlds. Before we discuss how this could be done, we should understand why it is so important.

God created human beings to be the mediators between the two worlds. Humans were uniquely created with both five physical senses and five corresponding spiritual senses. These would allow us to freely communicate with our Heavenly Father as well as our friends and family members who have passed to the spirit world. The reason behind this was true love. Being able to relate to God and His love and truth as easily as we relate to a family member in the physical world would be amazing! Also, anyone who has experienced the pain of losing a loved one to physical death knows that this could not be the plan of a loving God. It was not. With fully developed spiritual senses, we could communicate effortlessly with those departed loved ones, tapping into their love and wisdom as we live our daily lives.

Due to the first family failing to grow to maturity in God's true love, human beings lost the free and open connection with their spiritual senses. The religious founders and saints had their senses developed to some degree and most of the world's sacred texts are the result of such communication.

We should be aware that just as not all people in the physical world are truthful and aligned with God's Will, not all spiritual beings are either. This is why some religious founders such as the Buddha did not discuss the subject of spirit world, choosing to focus people's attention on overcoming their present physical circumstances.

Nevertheless, the spiritual world is a very real place. It is not a figment of our imagination. It is the place that we all pass into after our physical life ends. When we pass into the spirit world we do not take any of our earthly possessions. What we do take are the spiritual merits and demerits accumulated from actions during earthly life. Therefore, it is essential that we live a life according to God's Ideal of Creation here on Earth. Developing true love within our families will allow us to transition into a bright world united with loved ones and within the light and warmth of God's presence.

The reason the spiritual world and physical world are not united is due to the original separation between God and His children, the same reason our mind and body, families and nations are not united. God and human beings were to become one through true love. Unfortunately, that did not occur. Instead, false, selfish love emerged that stained God's lineage of true love. Satan's lineage of false love has been passed down to all humanity. This can now be changed with the coming of God's lineage through the True Family and our commitment to living God-centered lives.

The Family Pledge mentions the two worlds as subject and object partners. The spiritual world is subject and the physical world is object. This same duality exists within human beings with our invisible mind as subject and our tangible body as object. The process of unifying the spiritual world and physical world begins within the self with the unity of mind and body.

Our mind and body struggle because we are not one with God and the ideal of true love. This basic disunity prevents us from relating with God's true love. We might say that God's true love has a certain frequency. Unless we are tuned to the same frequency we are not able to connect. Tuning ourselves means uniting the mind and body through true love expressed as

living for the sake of others. It also means removing the inherited false lineage by engrafting to the original true lineage (Commitment #7).

Rev. Moon spoke often about the unity between mind and body. His primary advice in achieving the proper relationship between the two was to follow the direction from one's conscience. The conscience is our connection to God. It always leads in a public direction—living for others. The more we follow the conscience, living for a greater good, the stronger the conscience's "voice" becomes. This provides the stimulation to subdue the self-centered desires of the body. Living sacrificially for others centered on God develops a properly unified individual and a character of true love.

When we speak of uniting the spiritual and physical worlds we should think that it begins with becoming a person of true love; a God-centered person who moves through and develops the Four Realms of Heart, Three Kingdoms, and the Realm of the Royal family.

Rev. Moon taught that, "within the realm of unification there are eight stages to pass through." Unification begins with the individual then family, tribe, clan, race, nation, world, until there is cosmic unity with God. As with any task, we begin the process of unification where we are. We start in the realm of the individual and progress to the family. As we mature, our abilities to move and unite with the spirit world expand to higher levels (Commitment #6).

As we learn more about the spirit world, we are confronted with the reality that consequences do exist. In fact, it is the place where all actions are clearly accounted for. In this world, it is often possible to avoid the consequences of selfish action through lying and manipulation. That is not possible in the spirit world where all life's actions are recorded and clearly displayed. By the same token, good actions in this world often go unnoticed and unrewarded. However, in the spirit world that is governed by heart, all good actions are acknowledged and beneficial.

Based on understanding the spirit world and God's Ideal of Creation, Rev. Moon taught that all humanity will one day return to God. The concept of universal salvation is in line with God's Ideal of Creation and His providence of Restoration. Though some people may live terrible lives and go to a very difficult place in the spirit world, they are still God's children. His heart of love wishes them to be close to him. Even such people will eventually learn, make amends, and grow in love though it may take a very long time.

Strive Everyday

We are not to sit still. We should be advancing, even if only by one step each day. Rev. Moon was a man of action while on Earth. He worked to accomplish so much in a short time in order to move God's Providence forward quickly. We should inherit that aspect of his legacy.

We are to develop ourselves both internally in terms of our character and spiritual life as well as externally in terms of skills and abilities. Our personal growth will make us more capable in developing our family and in our particular field of work. God is desperate to save His children as soon as possible. Rev. Moon has a deep connection to that desire and his lifestyle displayed that fervent unity.

Commitment # 5 is about unity between the spiritual and physical world. We, on the Earth, should be aware that we are not alone in the work of building God's kingdom. Just as we

long to communicate with God and spiritual beings, they wish to connect with us. Our ancestors, the religious founders, saints and good people in the spirit world wish to support our efforts in this world. We can elicit their support by working hard investing 100% of our thought and effort and by doing so with a sincere attitude. This attitude of sincerity is what can move Heaven (spirit world) to support us.

Rev. Moon spoke often about this sincerity. He used the Korean word *jeongseong*. Here is Rev. Moon speaking about this:

What shall we do in order to receive God's love? Since God has total love for us, we should also invest totally.

The saying, 'Sincerity moves Heaven', like, 'Faith will move mountains', is a proverb in Korea, but truly it is also the natural order of things.

The proverb, 'Act with sincerity', means to act with all your efforts, inside and outside, heart and soul.

The proverb, 'Practice everything with sincerity in your words and deeds', means to completely unite your body and soul in a conscientious life. This means a life of dedication. We call it 'utmost sincerity' or jeongseong. The Korean word jeong deals with the spirit, and seong means the fulfillment of the Word. Thus, jeongseong means fulfilling everything inwardly and outwardly and offering it. If you do everything with jeongseong you can move Heaven. 5-1-75

Rev. Moon asked the question, "How can you be connected to the [spirit] world that you do not even think about?" He admonished us to live our daily lives with the consciousness that "the spirit world is the subject partner." The starting point of unity is in our mind.

We do have the ability to unite the spiritual and physical worlds. We begin with ourselves and with our family. We work hard and do so with sincerity. We work together as a community united in the Providential direction. God, our Heavenly Father, will be moved and draw close. We will see miracles in the building of His kingdom.

The concept of *jeongseong* is closely tied to that of moving Heavenly Fortune that will be discussed in the next Commitment.

Commitment 6 – Embody God and Channel Blessings to Others

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to become a family that moves heavenly fortune by embodying God and True Parents, and to perfect a family that conveys Heaven's blessing to our community, by centering on true love.

Embody God and True Parents

Webster's dictionary defines "embody" this way: "to give a concrete form to; to provide with a body ..." God's original Ideal of Creation centered on the main axis of creating true parents as His object partner of love. Even before the creation of any part of the universe, God had the ideal of true parents and a true family in His mind as the goal. Once the goal of creating

true parents was reached, the Four Realms of heart, Three Kingships, and realm of the Royal Family would follow.

Before God began the step-by-step process of creating the universe, He had a plan. The central element of that plan was to create the perfect object to Himself with whom He could have a relationship centered on true love. God is a Being of both masculinity and femininity; therefore, His object should have both of those qualities. He divided those qualities into separate beings called man and woman. He designed these beings to be complimentary so that their attraction would be strong and when combined they would be a full reflection of His own divine nature.

The place where the union of God and humanity occurs is Blessed marriage. The center of Blessed marriage is true love. It is the place where the vertical love of God joins with the horizontal love between man and woman. That loving couple when united with the love of God is a unique physical manifestation of the invisible Creator. This couple is the object partner of love that God had planned and worked to create. This is His object of love. The place where He was to be rewarded with infinite true love.

The next step in the process of true love is for the couple to become parents and create a family. Parents centered on God's love are true parents and their family is a true family. True parents will share in the process of creation with God by creating their own children. Through this experience they will share the same heart of creation that God did at the birth of His first children. This is the process to become one with the true love of God. This is the process for humanity to embody God.

The Family Pledge as a whole is calling us to give form to God's ideal of true love. We are to become the true parents and create a true family that God has longed for because this is the dwelling place of the greatest joy and happiness for both God and ourselves.

The concept of embodying God may be unthinkable or even blasphemous to some. This is due to the fact that most theology places a great distance between God and human beings. Such theology is man's not God's. Our Heavenly Father wishes to be intimately involved in our lives as we will discuss in Commitment #8.

Perfect a Family That Moves Heavenly Fortune

By embodying God, we are naturally coming into alignment with His true love. In addition, we are aligning ourselves with His Will. God's Will is the unseen force moving behind the human history to bring about His Ideal of Creation. Aligning ourselves to God's Will and the universal principles and values that guided the creation draw His spiritual power or fortune.

In describing heavenly fortune, Rev. Moon used an analogy with winds and their movement through high and low-pressure areas. He explained that if we exert all our efforts (in loving others) we create a low-pressure area. High pressure naturally rushes in to fill this gap. The wind of this high pressure is God's love or the winds of heavenly fortune.

The key to moving the winds of heavenly fortune in your direction is by becoming the low-pressure area. That is, to go to the lowest place by service and sacrifice for others.

If you want to ride on heavenly fortune, you first have to know what kind of place the way of heavenly fortune is. It is not a place everybody likes and where they enjoy themselves eating and drinking. It is a place everyone dislikes. It should be a place where you are always grateful for everything and give glory to God while carrying out your responsibilities. Those who stand in such a place can ride on heavenly fortune. CSG pg. 2500

The virtues of humility, gratitude, and living for others are like magnets that draw the heavenly fortune. Heavenly fortune and God's substantial blessings can flow to our families as we come to embody His nature of true love through living for others. By embodying God's love as a family, we naturally draw heavenly fortune and in turn want to share it with others.

Convey Heaven's Blessing to our Community

We are meant to have the maturity not to hold Heavens blessing solely for our own family. We are to be conduits of such fortune and share our blessings with others. We can do this by loving and educating the families around us. We share the blessing allowing others to benefit as well. Creating the Realm of the Royal Family is tangibly conveying Heaven's blessings to our community.

Commitment 7 – Create a Culture of Heart

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges, through living for the sake of others, to perfect the world based on the culture of heart, which is rooted in the original lineage, by centering on true love.

Original Lineage

While discussing the Three Great Kingships in Commitment #3, we mentioned lineage. In that context, it was explained that God's original lineage contained the seed of true love and true life. God's seed of true love was to be passed on to His children and would be passed down through succeeding generations. Unfortunately, that seed of true love and true life was not passed on from the first family. God's lineage was severed and a false lineage centered on Satan began.

God's work of restoration has been the process of recreating the environment where He could once again introduce His lineage into His human family. Jesus was the person where all the conditions of sacrifice and indemnity came to fruition. Jesus was born as God's son separate from the false lineage. Jesus carried God's seed from which a true family could grow and eventually spread to all humanity. Tragically, Jesus did not create a family due to his premature death. Once again God had to prepare an environment and people where His son could be born.

Two thousand years after Jesus' death, God was able to reintroduce His lineage into the world through True Father, Rev. Moon. After many years of hardship and suffering, and with God's help, Rev. Moon fulfilled the purpose of the Messiah by establishing the first True Family

in God's history! This was an amazing day for God and began a new history for mankind. Finally, after thousands of years, through the advent of True Parents and True Family, God's lineage of true love is being propagated on Earth. The possibility of universal salvation has been opened to all humanity by engrafting into God's lineage through participating in the Marriage Blessing Ceremony.

The gift Blessed Families have received is extraordinary. Blessed Families engrafted into the True Family are now linked to God's lineage. Blessed Families should treasure this gift of God's lineage. It should be protected to maintain its sanctity through personal and familial responsibility. Blessed Families can find the strength and confidence in guiding their own families to preserve the lineage. We are the first ancestors of God's lineage of true love that will last thousands of generations! The value of Blessed Central Families is immense, and so is the responsibility of maintaining God's lineage.

Culture of Heart

Now that God's lineage is here, we can begin to build a new culture centered on God's true love. Without the original lineage, there can be no new culture of heart because God's seed of true love and true life comes through the True Family. The world we are to create or perfect is developed through the heartistic culture of God-centered love that we create in our families having engrafted into the True Family.

The new world culture of heart begins with God-centered Blessed Central Families developing the Four Realms of Heart inside their families by practicing true love in living for the sake of others. The world culture is built from the bottom up family by family. The culture of heart grown in the families seeps out into the surrounding community and into other families. These families in turn spread the culture step by step up to the world level.

What will this world culture of heart look like? Rev. Moon's words:

The coming future world is the world of the new culture of heart and the culture of love based on the true family, where God, human beings, and all things live in harmony. It is the world of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values in which people live for the sake of others in true love and live together in harmony and cooperation.

When speaking of the culture of heart, it is natural to think about the qualities of love and harmony. After all, these are aspects of God's divine character. It is His character or nature that is being projected substantially in this physical world through the love in our families. In building a culture that is based on God's character, we must be aware that there are other very important elements to His divine nature.

God is a Being of heart and He is also a Being of truth. This aspect of His character leads to virtues that are expressed in humanity in the form of righteousness and goodness. In order to build a true culture, we must become people who embody both aspects of love and truth. As we seek love, we should also seek truth. As we act in love, we should act in truth. We presently live in a world filled with false love and distorted truth. We are very fortunate to have God's teaching

through the True Family and the Eight Great Texts to help us navigate and overcome these falsehoods.

Living for the Sake of Others

The way in which the culture of heart is developed is by centering on God and living for others. Husband and wife live for each other, parents live for children, siblings live for each other, and children live for the parents. Together, the family lives for the nation and the nation lives for the world. We all live for God and He for us.

God created the universe with the principle of “living for the sake of others” as its axis. He did so because He envisioned a world where He would have partners to love. Love does not come from oneself; it comes from a partner. It is stimulated by serving that partner and, in a fuller expression, by investing into that partner.

Love is not realized when you are alone. Where does love come from? It does not come from us but from our object partner. Because it comes from our object partner, we must bow our head and serve our partner. This is where the heavenly principle, “live for the sake of others,” comes from. ... We can receive love only when we have realized the philosophy of living for the sake of others. CSG pg. 2506

God is a Being who, by His inherent nature, lives for others. It’s almost like He has no choice because at His central core, He is a Being rooted in heart which is the irrepressible desire to seek joy through love. He created the universe this way because it is how He is. He is of one altruistic nature.

Adam and Eve were supposed to become like this as well by fulfilling a portion of responsibility. Sharing in their own spiritual growth and maturing process would qualify them as co-creators and make it possible to share infinite joy and love with their Heavenly Father. They would have inherited God’s lineage of true love and been the root family and starting point for God’s ideal world. Unfortunately, that did not happen and they received a false lineage and became divided in nature between good and evil. This divided nature was passed on to all humanity.

In the past, people could not ultimately escape a divided nature because humanity was connected to the false lineage. We did not have access to God’s lineage of true love. Now that is changed. Through the advent of True Family, humanity can be connected to God’s lineage and ultimately grow to embody His character, freeing ourselves and the world so that we can become one with God. True love and true life are now possible because we have true lineage.

We still possess our portion of responsibility. Which means we have the “ability to respond.” When we can fulfill it centered on God we can develop the undivided, altruistic character originally envisioned in God’s Ideal of Creation. As mentioned earlier in Commitment #5, God guides us through our conscience. That conscience is always guiding us to act for a greater good. By following our conscience in daily actions, we develop the character of living for others.

Commitment 8 – Create a Peaceful Ideal World United with God

Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges, having entered the Completed Testament Age, to achieve the ideal of God and human beings united in love through absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience, and to perfect the realm of liberation and complete freedom in the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven, by centering on true love.

Completed Testament Age

On May 13, 1993, Rev. Moon announced the beginning of the Completed Testament Age. This unprecedented declaration was made based on the successful establishment of the first True Family. It signifies a new era in God's providence. How happy God must have been that the time had now arrived when all humanity could live together with God. That, in essence, is the meaning of the Completed Testament Age.

God's providential history has progressed through three stages. The Old Testament Age (the time before Jesus) was the time of justification through sacrificial offerings. The New Testament Age was the age of justification by faith. The final stage, the Completed Testament Age is the age of justification by attendance (Commitment #2). In this age, works (OT), faith (NT) and attendance (CT) are brought together. We are to live with God and attend Him and His Providential Will.

Human beings were created to attend God because the center of the universe is the Parent-Child relationship. That is, as His children, we understand His Will and carry out His desires. In so doing, the ideal family centered on God's love, life and lineage would begin. We have now returned to that point after thousands of years of restoration. It is the gospel of gospels that we can now live with God! God's promise has been fulfilled!

It would be one year after declaring the opening of the Completed Testament Age that Rev. Moon introduced the Family Pledge and taught the formula for living with God.

Achieve the Ideal of God and Human Beings United in Love

Rev. Moon taught that for any two entities to have a relationship there must be a center. Beginning on the atomic level all the way up to human beings, there is a center to all relationships. Men and women interact on the highest level centered on love. It is the same between God and human beings. We were not created for the purpose of intellectual discourse with God so our center is not knowledge! We were created to be partners of love with God so love is the center. Therefore, ultimate oneness with God means becoming one with God's love. Such a statement leads naturally to questions like, "How, where, and when does this oneness of love with God happen?"

What is it that Rev. Moon agonized over the most while digging into the fundamental core of the universe? It was the question of how love travels and settles down. Discovering the one thing that love travels the straightest, shortest distance, resolved all questions. CSG pg. 2531

The following is a paraphrasing of Rev. Moon's explanation of the connection of love between God and humans. Begin by thinking of God as above on a horizontal line and human beings below on a parallel horizontal line. There can be many lines drawn to connect these two lines. However, the line that is the most direct is the one that starts from a point on the upper line and moves perpendicular (90 degrees) down to the lower line and meets that line at a point that is also perpendicular. There is only one such perpendicular line starting from the one point of God. The shortest, most direct line must be perpendicular. That line cannot vary even one degree. It is absolute and does not change. Unless the vertical line is established, there is no absolute connection between upper and lower.

The vertical connection between God and human beings is designed to occur within the relationship between husband and wife. That is the moment of perfection of the individual and the start of the spousal relationship. This is the place where God's love, life, and lineage merge with human beings and oneness occurs. This is how love travels and where it settles. The spousal relationship is therefore the most sacred of places—the holy of holies.

The responsibility for establishing the vertical connection with God lies with us. He is constantly seeking to relate with us in love. However, He cannot reach us as our standard has not yet reached the point of being absolute. Let's now look at the meaning of being absolute in The Family Pledge.

Absolute Faith, Absolute Love, Absolute Obedience

Rev. Moon explained three key characteristics that shape and define our relationship with God: faith, love, and obedience. This is because they are the characteristics God demonstrated from the moment of creation. Our Creator and Heavenly Father set the standard for absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience.

In creating the world, He had absolute faith that His ideal would be realized, that He would find an object partner of true love in God-centered families. This absolute faith moved Him to act in starting the process of creation. Our faith needs to spur us to action as well. Faith that can move mountains is hard to come by because it necessitates our thinking and acting outside of our comfort zone. We must stretch ourselves in order to believe that which seems impossible by personal or societal standards. We find it hard to believe or have faith because we set limits based on ourselves and our concepts instead of on God and His ideals and desires.

In God's action of creation, He invested absolutely 100% of His heart and love in creating His children and the perfect environment for them. Think of how amazing the physical body is and how spectacularly beautiful our planet is. This beauty is a reflection of God's parental heart to give everything for the sake of His children. He invested everything without thought of a return. If we love seeking a return, that love is not absolute. Rev. Moon spoke so often about giving and forgetting. Investing 100% without thought of return. That is the standard set by our Heavenly Father when He invested everything to find His partners in true love.

God was absolutely obedient to the universal spiritual principles that He set forth to govern our existence. This is evidence by the fact that He did not interfere with His children's portion of responsibility in growing to maturity. Doing so would violate the role of responsibility in being co-creators with God in order to share the greatest love with Him. When we think of

obedience we usually think in a transactional way of following directions. You say this, I do that. This is only a superficial expression. A deeper understanding leads us to see that obedience has to do with relinquishing of self and becoming conscious of others. Our Heavenly Father demonstrated the highest form of obedience when He created the universe, in that, He has been obedient to the universal principles and values that governed its creation.

When our faith does not waiver, when we love others unconditionally, when we are obedient to the universal spiritual principles and values, we are in alignment with the heart of the Creator and His Ideal of Creation. God began the process of creation by practicing absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience Himself. It was His intention that His children would acquire these qualities through their own growth and development. We grow spiritually through experience and reflection. As we practice faith, love, and obedience and strive to become absolute, it is possible to develop ourselves and our families. It starts with becoming other-centered and ends with the ultimate realization of oneness with God's love and an eternally sustaining relationship with Him.

Perfect the Realm of Liberation and Complete Freedom

Spiritually speaking, there are barriers and walls that prevent us from being truly free and from becoming the sons and daughters God longs for. Some of those walls are self-imposed by the limits we place upon ourselves. Through gratitude and humility we can pull God into our lives and deeply appreciate all that He has invested in us and the Creation.

If you want to feel free, you should be in a position where you can accept any situation; nothing unpleasant should hold you back – even a dumpster-like situation. Only then will you be liberated. If this bothers you, you will not be liberated. CSG pg. 2537

Jesus taught that those who want to live must be willing to die. That is one of the most quoted Bible verses by Rev. Moon. Those who are willing to sacrifice themselves will be free. This is not just the big things like a soldier in a war dying for his fellow soldiers or for the ideals of the nation. It starts with the small things on the individual level, like children doing chores around the house or parents saving money for children's future education and countless other personal sacrifices each family member makes for the other. As the spiritual law of "living for the sake of others" becomes manifest within the family, that family and its members will become more and more free as they experience true love.

This Commitment uses the words "realm of liberation" because we are not set free by ourselves. Liberation, like love, is based on relationships and responsibility. The realm of liberation is to include all the family members as well as all other levels. The mind cannot be liberated without the body. A husband cannot go to Heaven without his wife. Parents cannot go to Heaven without their children. Ultimately, the Kingdom of God in Heaven cannot happen without the Kingdom of God on Earth.

The discussion of liberation and freedom has so far centered on the individual and the surrounding level of family. There is also a much greater realm of liberation to consider and that is the liberation of God. The liberation of God was a driving force in the life of Rev. Moon.

Throughout history, human beings have been searching for their own liberation and salvation, but who has been concerned about God's situation? Does God dwell in blissful joy for eternity, not in need of liberation? God is the Parent who has been mourning over human beings as they suffer in sin and evil throughout history. How, then, can God rejoice with a liberated heart? It is impossible. Depending on the degree of earthly liberation, God's heart can also be liberated. Only when God is liberated can human beings be liberated, be free to enjoy a family life of true love, and bring liberation to the creation. WS pg. 334

How are we to liberate God? God lost His beloved children. God is confined in a place where He cannot love humanity with the original love that parents give their children. Therefore, our task is to establish a realm of true liberation for God, where He can freely give love to all humankind. God's confinement was brought about by human beings' falling, so human beings must become victorious sons and daughter who transcend the limits of the Fall. This is what will bring God true liberation.

... Many people think that God will liberate us, but now we recognize that God's heart is under confinement. We understand that we should liberate God and bring Him into complete freedom.

... The only way is to carry out a movement practicing the love that is God's original essence.

12/13/2004 Washington D.C.

God created Human beings as His children, to be His partners of true love. He and we will be totally free, and filled with joy, when all of humanity comes to fulfill His Ideal of Creation by practicing that Ideal as outlined in The Family Pledge. True love in God-centered families will liberate humanity and our Heavenly Father.

Summary

The Family Pledge contains eight commitments that are built upon some thirty different but related concepts. This paper has tried to briefly explain each one of those building blocks in order to help the reader better understand the essential teachings of Rev. Moon regarding God's Ideal of Creation. In this final section, we will look at the Family Pledge in a holistic way, that is, we will look at the flow and logic of how the eight commitments work together.

Commitment #1 begins with God's Ideal of Creation and lays out the goal of finding the original homeland and building God's kingdom on Earth and in Heaven. As stated earlier, it provides the big picture of where we are to go. With this destination in mind we can then choose the right path and begin the journey.

The first step on the journey is for each individual person to establish the parent-child relationship with God. Commitment #2 starts with attendance to God. This is the starting point and foundation upon which all the remaining commitments are built. Attending God with full devotion elevates us to become central to Heaven and Earth. The second part of the commitment explains the four-step process of growing from filial child to patriot, saint, and finally, divine son

or daughter of God. Taking ownership and fulfilling responsibilities on each level draws us closer in mind and heart to our Heavenly Father.

Upon the foundation of individuals comes the development of families. Commitment #3 explains the structure, Three Great Kingdoms; the substance, Four Great Realms of heart; and the expansion, Realm of the Royal Family, of God's Ideal of Creation centered on the multi-generational family of true love.

The establishment of families centered on God leads to development on the next level, the world. Commitment #4 calls for the universal family of humankind that lives in a world of freedom, peace, unity and happiness. One universal world family that is united around the truth and love of our Heavenly Father.

Commitment #5 expands the universal family even further than the physical world by uniting the physical world with the spiritual world. This ensures we live in God's kingdom while on Earth and then for eternity in the spiritual world.

As we continue to understand the goal (#1), grow and develop our relationships with God (#2), family (#3), world (#4), and spirit world, (#5) we draw Heaven's spiritual and material blessings. Commitment #6 explains that as we fulfill the previous five commitments, we come to embody God and His Ideal of Creation. With such grace, we are able to move heavenly fortune and share the blessings we have received with those around us.

The result of families all around the world living according to God's purpose and Ideal of Creation leads to Commitment #7 and the creation of a world-wide culture of heart. This is a culture springing from God's lineage of true love and is put into practice by all people and families living by God's central axiom of "living for the sake of others."

Commitment # 8 brings us full circle by declaring that now is the time to fulfill the commitments of the Family Pledge. We have entered the Completed Testament Age. The True Family has been established on Earth. Heavenly Father and His human family can live united in love through absolute faith, love, and obedience. It is the time when humanity can achieve God's Ideal of Creation and find liberation and complete freedom, centered on true love.

It is also possible to view the Commitments of the Family Pledge in light of the "three great blessings." These blessings are derived from the Biblical account of creation.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; ... Gen 1:28

The first blessing of being fruitful has to do with individually growing to maturity in attendance to God and developing a character of true love through fulfilling personal responsibility. This is the content of Family Pledge numbers 1 and 2.

The second blessing of multiplication is essentially about creating God-centered families and expanding the love developed there to our surroundings. This is the content of Family Pledge numbers 3, 4, and 5.

The final blessing of subduing or having dominion over the Earth is essentially about building a peaceful ideal world which is the content of Family Pledge numbers 6, 7, and 8. As stated earlier, the Family Pledge is grounded in the universal principles and values that guided God's purpose and process of creation.

Conclusion

The arrival of the True Family and the opening of the Completed Testament Age means the world is at a dramatically different place in God's providence. The age of religion and individual salvation has reached its conclusion. The age of universal salvation centered on God-centered families has begun. Our relationship with God is no longer dependent on any religious institutions. Rev. Moon has opened the way for people of all faiths and good conscience to follow God's universal principles and values to build God-centered individuals, families, community, and world.

Rev. Moon left behind four great treasures for us. First, he lived a life of absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience in attendance to God. He demonstrated how meaningful our lives can be when we acknowledge that God is the source of creation and the center of His Providence. He set the precedent of a filial son, a patriot, a saint, and a divine son of God.

Secondly, he created a True Family for the first time in history, realizing the Ideal of Creation, ensuring that God's lineage of true love endures.

Third, on that foundation, he ushered in a new age of Universal Salvation, providing access for all humanity to God's lineage of true love through engrafting into that True Family through the Marriage Blessing.

Fourth, he guided us on how to fulfill our responsibilities as Blessed Central Families through the canon of his teachings, the Eight Great Texts. Through these volumes he taught Blessed Families what is needed in order to achieve God's Ideal of Creation in our own families while sharing that ideal with others.

Furthermore, he modeled for us, what a true son of God, true brother, true husband, and true father looks and acts like in heart, true love, and action. His unwavering attendance to Heavenly Father; his commitment to Heavenly Father's Providence; and his investment to realize God's dream for all mankind to be One Family Under God set the precedent for all to aspire to.

It is now up to us to use the great teachings and example we have received to become divine sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, God-centered families, responsible owners of Cheon Il Guk, and ambassadors for a world culture of heart.

The lessons we learn from the Family Pledge come from universal, cosmic principles, not from any form of individualism. We should not try to avoid the various hardships that we face in our lives. We must boldly break through our circumstances and win the victory! To do this, our families must be armed with the tradition of the Family Pledge. PM #14

Historical Background

Rev. Moon was born in what is now North Korea in 1920. In 1935, he encountered Jesus spiritually while in prayer in the mountains near his home. During this encounter, Jesus appealed to him to continue and complete the work he had begun 2,000 years earlier. After serious deliberation, Rev. Moon accepted Jesus' calling and for the next nine years (until 1945) he prepared for this daunting mission. He began searching for answers to the deepest questions concerning life and death, good and evil, and the relationship between God and human beings. The answers to his questions, as well as, many new revelations regarding God's ideal of creation would later be systematized and written in the form of the Eight Great Texts.

The nation of Korea was under Japanese occupation from 1910 until 1945, the end of WWII. Once the war ended and Korea had been liberated, Rev. Moon was then free to begin his public mission. Heaven had prepared Christianity as a world-wide religion to create a foundation for God's work of universal salvation. Christianity was very fervent in Korea at this time. Many individuals, spiritual groups, and circumstances were prepared for him to succeed in those early days. Foremost of these were many spirit-filled Christians, as well as, patriots who were looking to form a new nation with high ideals and values. Tragically, the specially prepared individuals and groups were not able to understand and recognize Rev. Moon and his important role. Rather than supporting his work, they misunderstood and opposed him. He was eventually falsely accused and imprisoned by the communist North Korean government in 1948. He spent two and a half years in a North Korean labor camp, all the while praying to God not to worry about him as he would survive and continue his commitment to God's Providence.

Rev. Moon was liberated from prison by the advancing United Nation forces in October of 1950. Then, after the changing tide of war and the advancing Chinese army marching through the north, he traveled south and arrived in the port city of Pusan in January of 1951. Here he erected a ramshackle hut from stone, mud and discarded boxes and once again began to teach the Word and witness to those he encountered. Membership in his group continued to grow. In 1953, they moved to Seoul and officially launched the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) on May 1, 1954. This is a very significant date as it marks the beginning of a 40-year course Rev. Moon was to walk – a detour from his original mission - in order to restore the Christian foundation that had rejected him.

As a result of the successful completion of the 40-year course in 1994, he could return to the point where he could restart his original mission of fulfilling the Purpose of Creation, to realize a True Family and a world of God-centered families. At that time, Rev. Moon declared the end of institutional religion. Spirituality was no longer the exclusive domain of religious organizations. All people could be related to God through building a family that is centered on God's ideal of true love. The Family Pledge that was introduced at that time is the guide and blueprint for creating such families, societies, nations, and a peaceful, ideal world.

Source Materials and Further Reading

Rev. Sun Myung Moon, April 24, 1994
“True Father’s Forty Years of Life Alone”

Rev. Sun Myung Moon, May 1, 1994
“Establishment of a World of True Heart-Centered Culture”

Rev. Sun Myung Moon, May 8, 1994
“The New Family Pledge”

Rev. Sun Myung Moon, June 13, 2007
“The Value and Significance of the Family Pledge” – Peace Message #14

Rev. Sun Myung Moon
Cheon Seong Gyeong (Original Version publish June 13, 2006) *
Book Sixteen, True Families and The Family Pledge
Pages 2353 - 2539

If you would like to comment or discuss the Family Pledge, send email to keithmac@hughes.net.

* After the passing of Rev. Moon in 2012, the Family Federation published a new version of *Cheon Seong Gyeong* and recalled the original version. The new version eliminates Book Sixteen (186 pages) that is devoted to The Family Pledge. In the new version, there are only 26 pages of Rev. Moon’s words regarding the Family Pledge. As of this writing, the original *Cheon Seong Gyeong* with the full Family Pledge content is still available online. <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Books/SunMyungMoon-CSG/0-Toc.htm>

The Family Pledge

1. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to seek our original homeland and build the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven, the original ideal of creation, by centering on true love.
2. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to represent and become central to heaven and earth by attending God and True Parents; we pledge to perfect the dutiful family way of filial sons and daughters in our family, patriots in our nation, saints in the world, and divine sons and daughters in heaven and earth, by centering on true love.
3. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to perfect the Four Great Realms of Heart, the Three Great Kingships and the Realm of the Royal Family, by centering on true love.
4. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to build the universal family encompassing heaven and earth, which is God's ideal of creation, and perfect the world of freedom, peace, unity and happiness, by centering on true love.
5. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to strive every day to advance the unification of the spirit world and the physical world as subject and object partners, by centering on true love.
6. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges to become a family that moves heavenly fortune by embodying God and True Parents, and to perfect a family that conveys Heaven's blessing to our community, by centering on true love.
7. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges, through living for the sake of others, to perfect the world based on the culture of heart, which is rooted in the original lineage, by centering on true love.
8. Our family, the owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges, having entered the Completed Testament Age, to achieve the ideal of God and human beings united in love through absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience, and to perfect the realm of liberation and complete freedom in the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven, by centering on true love.

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