

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Jack Corley - Importance of an Ideal When We Marry Reality

Knut Holdhus
September 16, 2024



Man of experience emphasizes the importance of an ideal when we try to build a most important relationship that is meant to last



Jack Corley in August 2024

Part 3 of an interview in Episode 2 of "Why I Stayed - [Unificationist](#) Stories", where Jack Corley, a farmer's son from Ireland, tells his story.

See [part 1: Reason for Joining: God Became a Reality](#) See [part 2: More Than a Belief: Finding a Living, Loving God](#)

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Presenter: And as we jump to the family here, let's talk about that. [Unification Church](#) [now [Family Federation](#)] families are building "ideal families", as you said, and the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on the earth. How is it going on in real life?

Jack: It's challenging. However, I believe that without a [vision](#), as the Bible says, people perish. We actually need to have an [ideal](#). But sometimes the practical realisation of the [ideal](#) is not easy. It's never been. But I do believe that based on our understanding, it is achievable. And I think that will become more real as time goes by.



Through our tradition of [Blessings](#), as we call them, we believe that [God](#) should be a central part of a person's life and family life. If we can achieve that in reality, then we will build happier, healthier and more joyful families.

But not everyone succeeds. That's just the reality that we have to deal with.

Presenter: Would you say your couple is different from other couples?

Jack: I'm hesitant to use "different" because it sounds like exclusivity, and religion has often been guilty of that. [...]

Presenter: How long have you been married?

Jack: I've been married since 1989. My wife is from the United States.

Presenter: And I would assume she is a member of the [Unification Church](#) [now [Family Federation](#)].

Jack: Yes, she is, yes.

Presenter: All right, so you then probably dream of building that "ideal family" we just talked about. How does it come around?

Jack: Well, to be very frank, we believe in an [ideal](#), but we marry reality. And of course, reality means having to bring a man and a woman together. That's the same for any [marriage](#).

But what is an advantage, I would say, in our case, is that we do not just look at each other, but we look together at a [vision](#) for our future and how our family should be. Without that kind of [vision](#), it's very difficult to have a guideline how to create a happy and successful family.

Through many trials and errors, like any [marriage](#), my wife and I have developed a very happy relationship. Now we're both 70 years old and we are, I would say, in a very happy stage in our life. And I think that's the result of the common [vision](#) that we have about [marriage](#) and family.

Presenter: I think [relationships](#) and how to build sustainable, long-term [relationships](#) is always a big question. A [vision](#) is great, but what if you break it down to reality? How is it reflected in your day-to-day life?



Jack: One of the things that's a central motto in our movement and in our life is the concept of "[true love](#)". And what is that defined as? [Living for the sake of the other](#). Let's say we habitually begin to think like that, in other words, when I wake up in the morning, shouldn't I think about my wife? How is she doing? Did she sleep well? Is she healthy?

And if we learn to practise that, make it a habit, then we mutually support one another. If we become self-centred, problems begin to arise. But when you try always, and with a sincere motivation, to be there for the other, then you are much more likely to succeed. I believe that's the root of where we're at right now.

Presenter: It sounds perfect. I live for your sake; you live for mine. It's an ongoing, constant effort. That sounds really great.

Slightly edited text

To be continued. Part 4 coming soon.

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More Than A Belief: Finding A Living, Loving God

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September 15, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



Early member shares how he found more than a belief. He discovered the door to experiencing a living, loving Heavenly Parent



Found more than a belief: Jack Corley in August 2024. Photo: Screenshot

Part 2 of an interview in Episode 2 of "Why I Stayed – Unificationist Stories", where Jack Corley, a farmer's son from Ireland, tells his story.

See part 1: Reason for Joining: God Became a Reality Part 3: Importance of an Ideal When We "Marry Reality"

See the video of the interview

Presenter: The concept of God is present in so many religions these days. How would you put the way that people see it in the Family Federation (formerly the Unification Church)?

Jack: God is a loving parental being, and the whole purpose of his creating human beings is



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that he wants to have children. Parents cannot be parents unless they have children. It is children who give their parents their title.



Parents kissing baby in Belarus August 2017. Photo: Mikhail Kapychka / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#)

When we say **God** is our Father, how can you be a father unless you have children, or a mother for that matter?

It's important that we understand this relationship between the Creator and the created. And that's what I felt was one of the biggest insights for me, that I could really understand in a much more substantial way, that **God** indeed is not just a fearful Lord over his children, but actually a loving Parent who lives entirely for the sake of his own children, us human beings.

And he gave us a beautiful planet Earth and the whole universe as our home while we are alive.



Preparing for the baby. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 15th September 2024.

So I thought, how much effort did this Parent make before the birth of his children?

Just like any parents, they prepare the room, the cot, the clothing, all kinds of things before the birth of their children.

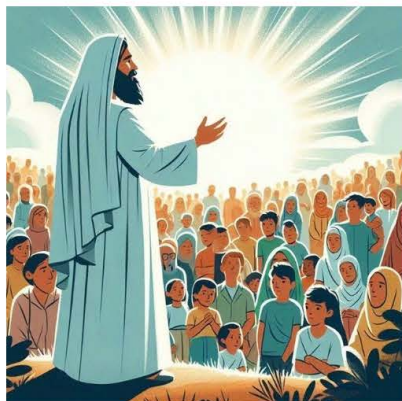
God Almighty prepared the whole universe, and particularly this planet Earth, to be exactly right by the

time his children were to be born.

And so when we understand this quality of our Creator, it's much more than a belief I choose to believe, or I choose not to believe. It's a real experience of a living, loving Parent.

Presenter: Yes, I see a really interesting picture here. We started with drawing this nice image of **God** being a loving Parent and creating the whole world for us, but then something happened, and people failed, if I can put it that way. How do such things as redemption and punishment align with the story?

Jack: That was always a part of my belief as a Catholic. Somehow our first ancestors fell, and then we needed salvation through Jesus.



Jesus promising the **Kingdom of Heaven** 2,000 years ago. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 15th September 2024.

But one question always came to my mind: If Jesus promised the **Kingdom of Heaven** 2,000 years ago, how come the world is still such a mess? Even worse? That was always a question in my mind. And I found in the **Divine Principle** a much clearer explanation about why, even so many years after the coming of Jesus Christ, the world is so messed up.

And the concept is that at the time of Jesus, we received what we call spiritual salvation. But now we have the opportunity for complete

salvation, which means that we can live our lives in such a way that we become divine beings, people who truly resemble **God**, and that at the time of our death, we move on to the **Kingdom of Heaven** in heaven. But ultimately, we will build the **Kingdom of Heaven** physically here on earth as well, as the Lord's prayer says.

Presenter: I have to say that from the viewpoint of psychology, that I'm studying, this sounds very real because we say that problems and things we experience in our lives often come from our parents. And here we see the ancestors making that mistake that, as you say, carries on to all people. That is very interesting to hear.

Continued in [part 7](#)

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Continued in part 3.

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Featured image above: [God](#) created beautiful planet Earth for us.
Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 15th September 2024.

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