

## UPF France's debates series on: Family Values in a Multicultural Society

Jacques Marion  
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On May 18, 2018, we held a debate meeting with 25 participants. This gathering was part of the conferences and debates series on "Family Values in a Multicultural Society" with the topic "Migration, integration – living side by side or living together?"

Mr. Jacques Marion, president of UPF-France and citizen of Orsay spoke on the topic of how living together might be possible if the basic values of human dignity and altruism are respected between the people of the receiving country and the migrants from other countries, cultures and religions.

He also mentioned that there have been several periods in Europe's and France's history where peaks of migration from and towards Europe and France have been taken place and that we are witnessing such a peak and have to face the challenges it brings about. This reminds me strongly of True Father's words a couple of years ago, when he prophesied huge waves of migration taking place all over the world.

Mr. Marion pointed out the different ways countries respond to migration, such as USA and UK, as well as Germany and France.

France's policy seems to be more of assimilation and intercultural relations rather than allowing the establishment of multicultural segments patchwork the society. Of course, the values of the Republic and basic human rights, as such, which do not include the notion of God's will or religion prove to be insufficient. Therefore, religious leaders have to step up and take charge of educating immigrants from their respective cultural spheres. They also have to protect and support families and education within the family. Here again, True Father's words and vision of the cooperation between state and religion provide a real solution.

Mr. Marion said, that without the return of God to our society and country's affairs, we will not be able to solve any of our major problems.

The testimonies of all the participants, especially of a Senegalese former lawyer, working actively with immigrants in France provided a very rich and deep discussion. Other friends from Catholic background who wish to cooperate with us were also very happy about the meeting.

Since, as individuals or as an association, we cannot immediately bring about the necessary changes on a national or European level, however, we still can work on our attitude and way of living with our neighbors from other countries or religions. With this promise, the evening ended in a unified and peaceful way.