

Tenth Divine Principle Seminar for Prominent People

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January 1973



The 110 participants

When the Unification Church, under the auspices of the Collegiate Association for Research of Principles (CARP), booked the famed "Academy House" conference center and hotel outside of Seoul for the 10th Divine Principle Seminar for Prominent People, they only expected 60 participants. However, when the seminar got under way, 110 professors and academic leaders showed up.

This unprecedented turnout marked a breakthrough in the Divine Principle's acceptance and influence in the Korean academic community. Previously CARP students had to work hard to gather the 50 or 60 that usually showed up. The students would pledge themselves to call each professor 10 times, and visit his office four times until the professor accepted their invitation. Even so, only 10 or 15 out of every 70 professors that they contacted would show up. At this seminar, however, the professors not only came, but brought their friends!

Part of the reason for this success could be the new sophistication and authority added to the Divine Principle teaching by Dr. Sang-Hun Lee, author of "Communism, a New Critique," and of "Unification Thought," the new Divine Principle critique of traditional Western philosophy and ethics. Dr. Lee applied the Divine Principle to explaining traditional concepts of ontology, epistemology, history, and ethics, criticizing the old ideas of Hegel, Marx, Sartre, Nietzsche, and other Western philosophers.

Many of the professors were mightily impressed. Prof. Sanguine You (PH.D., LL.D.) president of Meong-Ji University remarked "The lectures were very useful to me-I got lots of newest knowledge-it was very wonderful." When asked what impressed him the most, Prof. You answered, "These lectures criticized former philosophies, briefly and practically I think it will influence very much the society and academic field. I am going to offer these lectures in the next academic year in our college." Prof. Won-Joon Chin from Seoul National Teacher's college, who had attended these seminars twice before, remarked, "The lectures have stabilized-become more logical and authoritative-since the previous seminars."

Summary of Activities

The participants gathered at the Academy House on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 2:00 PM for the opening ceremony and orientation. The first lecture at 4:00 PM was on "The Principles of Creation" by Chung-Hwan Kwak, director of CARP.

After dinner, Mr. Kwak continued with "The Fall of Man." Following that, at 8:00 PM, a film was shown about the Little Angels, and a briefing given about their performance in Japan.

The next day, Dr. Lee began the lectures at 9:00 AM with the "Divine Principle view of Ontology," followed by the "Divine Principle View of Original Human Nature." After lunch, Dr. Lee continued with the "Divine Principle view of Epistemology" (theory of perception), followed at 4:00 by the "Principle of Restoration" by Mr. Kwak.

After dinner, Dr. Lee presented the "Divine Principle View of Logic," followed by a film and briefing about the Professor's Good Will Seminar in Japan last August.

The last day, Dec. 29, opened with Dr. Lee lecturing on the "Divine Principle View of Ethics," then the "Divine Principle View of History". The professors were excited by Dr. Lee's explanation of the unique place of Korea in the world today: as the confrontation ground between democracy and Communism, and the crossroads of Eastern and Western culture, Korea is at the center of the main currents affecting the world today.

After lunch, a question and answer session was conducted. The professors mainly asked questions about the activities and organization of the Unification Church- CARP, IFVC, overseas missions, the

businesses, etc. Dr. Lee, Mr. Kwak, Mr. Won Pil Kim, and Mr. Won-Jin Hwang, acting president of HSA, fielded their questions with candor and honesty.

Some professors offered suggestions as to how Unification Thought could best be applied. Prof. Suh-Mook Kim from Kon-Kuk University, newly elected member of the Unification Council, said that "these lectures should not only be taught to students and professors, but to the members of the National Unification Council as well." He said that he would take steps to bring this about.

At the end of the seminar, I asked Dr. Sae-Won Yoon, Dean of the Industrial College at Kyunghi University, who had recently returned from the Unified Science Conference in New York, what he thought of the seminar. He said: "It was very impressive. Many professors in Korea ignored the Unification Church, but through this seminar, they cannot ignore what they (the Unification Church) want, what they are doing now all over the world. Traditional thinking has limited us, but through these Principles, we can open our minds to a wide world, greater understanding. Korean Society is a newly organized, developing society -- we must have some Principles!

Without Principles, we cannot push our force to a new world, new society. So far we have struggled with Communism and foreign dictatorships, but now we can find the free world and free nation with these principles we can stand confidently and overcome Communist aggression."



Professors listen to Unification thought

Comments of the Professors

In analyzing the participants' written comments after the seminar, it was calculated that 84% of the comments were positive. On the negative side, one professor was heard to remark "Too much conniving!" Other objections were more of a helpful than negative nature: one professor worried that the Divine Principle teaching might become too dry and academic through application to philosophy. Another opined that applying a thought to so many fields would tend to dilute its power in more specific areas. Also, some professors were seen to leave the seminar early; whether through business or negativity I can't be sure. On the whole, however, the reaction of the professors was positive. Below is a representative sample of 17 comments, translated by Han-Joo Cha:

The Unification Thought is a great philosophy that Korea has developed. (Dae-Hyun Paik, Konkuk University)

I hope that some university could be run by the Unification Church. (Hyun-Kyu No Konkuk University)

Unification Thought is a philosophy that the intellectual must study and testify to. (Nam-Ki Kim, Chosun University)

It will contribute much to the unification of divided Korea. (Sung-Kyun Park, Tong-A University)

I have determined to apply its teachings to the guidance of my students. (Hak-Woon Kim, Seoul Agricultural College)

I was deeply impressed to see that Unification Thought has systematized the vast contents of Christian doctrine from the Creation to the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven (In-Kyum Kim, Konkuk University)

It is amazing that the Unification Church applied the pure sciences to its teachings. The Unification Principle will be a superior religion. Especially its ethics, clearly explained in terms of the "three blessings," are a fundamental principle of human ethics. (Dae-Kyo Chung, Konkuk University)

One of the great merits of what the Unification Principle has achieved is that it has theorized a critique of communism with its teachings. (Soon-Hi No, Konkuk University)

I hope a great philosopher or great religious leader could rise up from 'Principle Philosophy., (Jung-Mook Kim, Kyungbuk University)

I suggest that Unification Thought be taught not only to students and professors but also to all government officials, Unification Council members and politicians. (Suh-Mook Kim, Konkuk University, member of Unification Council.)

The attempt to make its doctrine scientific sounds very impressive to modern people. The teaching of self-reliance for Korea inspires and encourages me very much. (Tae-Young Kim, Seoul National Teacher's College.)

I suggest that Unification Thought be applied to politics and economics. (Kyung-Koo Lee, Seongyungwan University)

It was very meaningful that the Unification Church has systematized rationally the study of secular and religious history and synthesized them into one. (Young Yoo, Yonsei University)

It is more logical than any other previous religion. It is a religion of the future. (Young-Sam Kim, Choongbuk University)

I think that Unification Thought will be a universal principle which will lead the world. It surpasses Hegel, Marx, and Toynbee. (Han-Taek Chung, Seoul National University)

It was very interesting for me to see give-and-take action and mutual interaction applied even to history. I agree with the four-position-foundation theory. (Young-Sup Ji, Kyungbuk University)

Unification Principle will be a light for Asia and the World. (Kwang-Sun Kim, Kyunghee University)