

Cheon Il Guk Pledge

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It is a tradition in our Unification Community to recite the Cheon Il Guk Pledge every morning at five o'clock. This tradition, as well as the Cheon Il Guk Pledge itself, was established by our True Father.

The Pledge has gone through many changes before culminating to the Cheon Il Guk Pledge. Why do we do the Cheon Il Guk Pledge? What is the meaning of the Cheon Il Guk Pledge?

Many explanations have been given by many through the years. However, herein, a new perspective will be introduced to you. A perspective that will allow you to consider the Cheon Il Guk Pledge with a new approach.

The Cheon Il Guk Pledge comprises eight individual promises that we make to God, our Heavenly Parent. All eight individual promises of the Cheon Il Guk Pledge convey one common message. This is justified by the fact that each of the eight promises begins and ends the same way. They each begin with the words "Our family, the Owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges" and end with the words "by centering on true love". We can consider the words "Our family, the Owner of Cheon Il Guk, pledges" to be the head and the words "by centering on true love" the tail of each promises. This means that the rest of the text—found between the head and the tail—is actually the body. And this text differs from one promise to another. So in short, all eight promises are about the fulfillment of one's portion of responsibility. What is portion of responsibility?

As our True Father explained in Cheon Seong Gyeong:

What does the term "portion of responsibility" in the Principle mean? Fulfilling one's portion of responsibility lead to human beings and God becoming one in love. As God's love is eternal, human beings as His partners become eternally one with Him in His love. There is no separation. (CSG, p. 1110)

This means that when we read the Cheon Il Guk Pledge at five in the morning or anytime we read it with devotion, we are actually promising to God that we are going to do our best on that moment, day, or life to become one with Him.

The term "family" as found in the head of each promise in the Cheon Il Guk Pledge does not only apply to a Blessed Family; it also applies the Unification family at large. This means that whether blessed or not, every Unificationist is part of this family that stands to become owner of Cheon Il Guk. How do we become owner of Cheon Il Guk?

We, as family, become owner of Cheon Il Guk by fulfilling our portion of responsibility at every level of the large family: as individuals, families, communities, societies, nations, etc.

The truth is that, on our own, none of us have the required qualifications to become owners of Cheon Il Guk. The only way we can fulfill our portions of responsibility and become owners of Cheon Il Guk is by living our lives and doing what we do centering on true love. What is the meaning of the words in the tail of each promise in the Cheon Il Guk Pledge?

The words “by centering on true love” mean that we are promising to God that we are going to live our lives and do what we do through and on the foundation of His absolute love, which is true love. However, here again, we face the reality that none of us have the required qualifications to connect to God’s absolute love. Fortunately there is a way for all of us, members of the Unification family, to connect to God’s absolute love. That is by connecting to our True Parents’ victorious foundation. The victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind is what allows us to connect to God’s absolute love. It was what is to allow us to live our lives and do what we do “by centering on true love”. Aju!

Hence before, during, and after reading the Cheon Il Guk Pledge, it may be a better practice to think about what one’s portion of responsibility is for that hour, that day, the providence, or in one’s life. It is not about thinking about all the levels of one’s portions of responsibility every morning before, during, or after reading the pledge, but it is about bringing to one’s awareness at least one level of one’s portions of responsibility into one’s mind. One morning it may be the responsibility to just do the Hoon Dok Hae; another morning it may be the responsibility to grasp one’s indemnity course; yet another morning it may be the responsibility to be a good spouse; another morning it may be the responsibility to become a child of filial piety, a saint, or a divine child.

So to break it down to the individual level, meaning an individual who is part of a family that is to own Cheon Il Guk, each individual in the Unification family, be it blessed or not, promises to God, when reading or reciting the Cheon Il Guk Pledge:

1. to fulfill one’s portion of responsibility of seeking God’s Original Homeland, which is His Original Ideal of Creation, within oneself and thereafter manifest It in the form of God’s Kingdom here on Earth as well as in the spirit world (Heaven), by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
2. to fulfill one’s portion of responsibility of becoming one with God and True Parents by fulfilling one’s portions of responsibility at the levels of family, nation, world, and universe, by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
3. to fulfill one’s portion of responsibility of becoming a true child, true sibling, true spouse, true parent, true teacher, true leader, a true member of both Abel and Cain

- families established by our True Parents, by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
4. to fulfill one's portion of responsibility of expanding True Parents' victorious foundation and establishing God's Kingdom at every level of one's portions of responsibility—individual, family, community, tribe, etc. by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
 5. to fulfill one's portion of responsibility of becoming one with God by harmonizing the realm of indirect dominion and the realm of direct dominion, one's foundation of faith and foundation of substance, and establishing unity between one's mind and body by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
 6. to fulfill one's portion of responsibility of becoming one of the many Abel and Cain children of the True Parents who contribute to the expansion of the Royal Family by mobilizing the Heavenly fortunes from God, True Parents, and the Absolute Spirit World to every level of one's portions of responsibility—individual, family, community, tribe, etc. by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
 7. to fulfill one's portion of responsibility of establishing and spreading True Parents' culture, teaching, philosophy, ideology, and lineage of true love by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.
 8. to fulfill one's portion of responsibility of carrying out and becoming all that has been promised above, in this era of Cheon Il Guk, by being connected to the victorious foundation established by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.

So why do we do the Cheon Il Guk Pledge? We do the Cheon Il Guk Pledge so that we awaken our awareness of fulfilling our portions of responsibility—hourly, daily, individually, etc. Another reason we do the Cheon Il Guk Pledge is to establish our allegiance to God.

May God bless you all in this era of Cheon Il Guk.

Aju!