

Reverend Moon is the first person to a getting together of Orient and Occident

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Photo date and location unknown

Dr. Warren Lewis, professor of Church history at the Unification Theological Seminary, stated: "Some theologians have been saying that there finally has to be a getting together of Orient and Occident -- apart from simply sending missionaries to the Orient and receiving the latest hot-shot guru from whatever new religion happens to come our way. After reading the Divine Principle, I can say that it is outstandingly to the credit of Reverend Moon that he is the first person to attempt this blend."

Not only does Rev. Moon attempt this blend, he adamantly asserts the necessity for such a unity to come about: "Western civilizations will never be culminated unless there is a fusion of two civilizations -- Western civilization, which is based on science, and Oriental culture, which is based on spirituality. With the Pacific Ocean in the center, the two cultures must fuse with each other to create one civilization which is perfected, elevated, and noble."

From the union of the two sides of human nature, mankind can reach higher dimensions. Even more important than that, God does not recognize differences. There is no such thing as America, Africa, Europe, or Asia to Him, only one heart, one love, one family of His children, and one world.

One of the cornerstones of Oriental philosophy is filial piety. This recognition that the family -- not the individual -- is the basic unit of human life is a key element in the Divine Principle as well. The Principle, in fact, teaches that the God-centered family is the means for fulfilling God's purpose in creating man. Oriental philosophy calls filial piety "the root of all virtues." How true.

The reason this is so is that the very purpose of our existence is to love others, and we aren't born with that automatic ability. It's something we have to learn and to work at. For example, recent research with monkeys has shown that aggression towards others develops relatively late, while love comes early in the game and gives a chance to become well established first. But monkeys who are separated from their mothers from birth never have the chance to learn how to love or be loved, and when they become mothers, they are "monster mothers."

When the family scares falling apart, watch out. Remember, filial piety is "the root of all virtues." This

has always been more recognized in the East and has held those cultures together despite many external upheavals over the centuries. Once you love and sacrifice for others on the small scale of the family, it is only a matter of expanding the scope to achieve love and responsibility beyond the family, at the community, national, or worldwide level. But if it doesn't start in the home, it may never get started, period.

But we don't need to learn how to love just to keep ourselves more or less "together," to prevent social chaos. The deeper and more important reason is that God's nature is love and in order to know God, to become one with Him and to be His true sons and daughters, we have to share in His capacity to love unselfishly and unconditionally.

This is where the Divine Principle goes beyond traditional Oriental philosophy giving a more complete understanding of God's nature. Heaven, as it is referred to in Oriental philosophies, is not just the laws by which the universe is held together. Inquiring minds want to know why? Why did God create? Why does man share the same qualities as his creator? What is the origin of love in the first place? These are questions that until now, man was not able to answer completely. But they are the most fundamental questions in our lives.

Reverend Moon expressed it this way in one of his talks: "You are not happy because a flower exists, but because you see the flower. You are not happy because there is music, but because you hear it. You are not happy just because there is someone beside you, but because you can see him, talk to him, and be with him. So, happiness requires a relationship. This is true of man and also true of God."

God needs man as the object of His love, in order for Him to be able to fully express His love. When we deny God, when we deny our relationship with Him, we cut off the very reason for our existence and cause untold grief to God's heart.

So, the universe is more than forces of plus and minus, yin and yang. Yin and yang can explain the existence of the universe, the give and take of forces, but they do not explain the purpose for our existence. For that you need a Being with heart, will, and character.

This is what Christianity has to offer to the world. It was Jesus Christ who taught us that God is our Father and that He wants us to be His children. He is not just the almighty God, ruler of the universe, giver of the Law. He is our Father, implying a relationship of mutual love.

And yet the West, with this understanding, became the center of technology and materialism, while the East developed a capacity for sacrifice and a depth of heart that the West still lacks today. There is another area in which "the Divine Principle of Reverend Moon goes beyond both contemporary Christianity and Oriental philosophy. Neither can adequately explain the origin and nature of evil and suffering in the world. Oriental philosophy acknowledges its existence and the need for mankind to overcome that part of himself and strive for self-betterment, but offers no explanation of the origin of evil. The Bible gives an explanation, but one so fraught with interpretations and degrees of acceptance that it is plain to see that something must be lacking in our understanding of it.

The Divine Principle is God speaking to man today, revealing for the first time the origin of evil and what must be done to end evil and bring about the establishment of the Heavenly Kingdom on earth in these days.

By his fusion of Eastern spirituality and Western analytical thinking, and by his deep understanding of the heart of God and God's purpose of creation, Reverend Moon brings hope to the world of truly bringing about that kingdom.