

World Peace Through
God-Centered Families

More than a Marriage

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Explanation of the Marriage Blessing Ceremony

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The Significance of the Marriage Blessing

The Marriage Blessing started as the **marriage sacrament of the Unification faith** and has now grown to become an interfaith celebration of God's love in the family. The Blessing has been received by millions of couples around the world with regular ceremonies being held in over 100 countries. Some are very large and fill sports stadiums, but the great majority are much more intimate with just a few couples.. Regardless of the size of the ceremony, the Marriage Blessing transcends boundaries and religious affiliations, and creates a shared experience as one family under God.

The world's great faiths unanimously affirm the importance of marriage and family. The divine union of man and woman in a Blessed Marriage reflects God's image and presence more fully and powerfully, than any man or woman alone. The tradition of the Marriage Blessing has grown from the life and teachings of **Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**, whom God called to be True Parents. Rev. and Dr. Moon teach that the very motive for God's creation is to give divine love to His children, and to experience joy as we love one another, and return our love to our Heavenly Parent and creator.

Religions also generally agree that the **suffering of humanity** stems from spiritual ignorance, alienation, and sin. We don't really know God and so are ignorant of our original value as His children. Not knowing that we are brothers and sisters, we often hurt each other. Rev. and Dr. Moon's special insight is that the confusion and breakdown of love in the family is the root of all human problems. The vast array of social, economic and political problems that have plagued humanity can be traced to the moral corruption and contradiction within our human nature, rooted in the **breakdown of the first Biblical family**.

The Marriage Blessing is therefore much more than a wedding ceremony. It is an instrument of **salvation and healing**; a framework to purify the fallen love which was inherited from humankind's first ancestors, and reestablish the foundation for God's original love, life and lineage. The Kingdom of God that Jesus taught us to pray for "on earth as it is in Heaven" begins with rebuilding the family as it was intended in the beginning. That is the purpose of the Marriage Blessing.

This is the essence of Rev. and Dr. Moon's mission as **"True Parents,"** sanctifying families, creating a new tradition where God's love and Blessing is the center. Beginning from their own Blessed Marriage in 1960, this Blessing tradition has spread to millions of families throughout the world.

The Marriage Blessing has expanded to become an interreligious affirmation of the **universal importance of marriage and family**, more fundamental even than our various faith traditions. Since 1992, clergy and members from many faiths have participated in the International and Interreligious Marriage Blessing Ceremony. Through participating in one of these unique wedding ceremonies, couples of all faiths and traditions are publicly demonstrating that true love in marriage is the key to a peaceful world. Married couples join to rededicate their love to God and each other, renewing their marriage to become a part of this historical transformation.

Whether you are a married couple seeking to infuse new life into your relationship, or you are single and looking for a more promising approach to marriage, receiving the Marriage Blessing is **your opportunity** to experience love as God intended.

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