

Cults and Other “Gospels”

Recognizing and Understanding the Differences



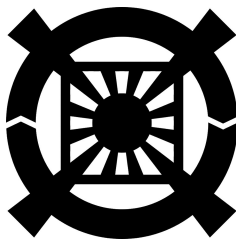
Cults and Other “Gospels”

- ♦ **Remember our definition of a “cult”**
 - ♦ **I've recommended six questions to ask yourself about any religious groups that seem at least potentially suspicious to you...**
 1. **Does the group have a prophet/founder who is revered by followers and claims to have *special* revelation from God or from angels?**
 2. **Are there authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to* or *instead of* the Bible?**
 3. **Does the group view itself as the one *true* church, founded because the *true* gospel was lost in the early centuries of the church?**
 4. **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 5. **How does the group believe we are *saved*? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 6. **What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?**



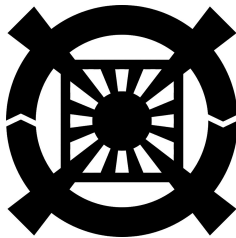
Cults and Other “Gospels”

- ♦ Introduction to Cults
- ♦ Peoples Temple
- ♦ Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”)
- ♦ Jehovah's Witnesses
- ♦ Christian Science
- ♦ Scientology / Dianetics
- ♦ **Unification Church**
 - ♦ **So why do outsiders derogatorily call members of the Unification Church “the Moonies” so often?**



The Unification Church

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Rev. Sun Myung Moon**
 - ◆ **“Humanity has to humbly listen to the voice of heaven and find the road of resolution directed by God. This country and its people must accept my teachings. This is not because I am trying to raise myself up, but because it is the will of God. God has revealed the principles of heaven through me, and He has given me the answers to the fundamental problems of humankind... I have laid a miraculous and victorious worldwide foundation. Such a foundation has been without precedence since the dawn of history.”**
 - Sun Myung Moon, speaking at the *Women's Federation For World Peace World Convention (1992)*

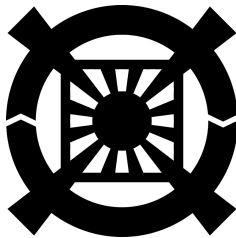


The Unification Church



Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ **Actually, an argument could be made that the Unification Church was technically started years earlier, by the aged woman, Kim Seong-do**
- ◆ **The day after Easter in 1923, Kim Seong-do had a revelation from God that the Fall of Man was due to sexual sin between Adam and Eve before they had been officially married as husband and wife by God (NOTE: Her focus on the special toxicity of sexual sin may have been informed by the fact that her pastor had just been accused of adultery, and the fact that her own husband regularly visited local concubines for sex)**

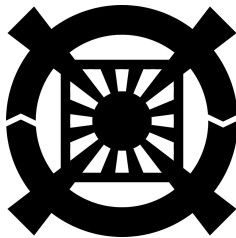
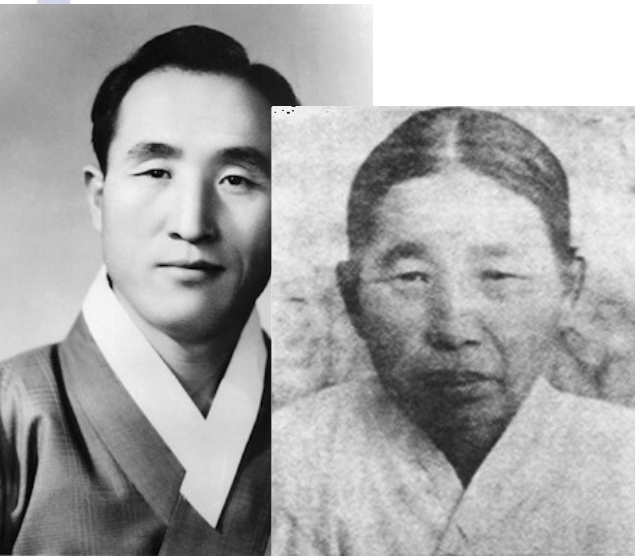


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 - ◆ **Kim Seong-do came up with the central ideas of what would later become Sun Myung Moon's “Divine Principle”—**
 - 1) **Mankind fell due to sexual sin**
 - 2) **God was heartbroken by His inability to prevent the fall of man and by the crucifixion of Jesus**
 - 3) **The death of Jesus was not part of God’s plan, but an unforeseen mistake**
 - 4) **Christ would someday return to Earth—in Korea, the new chosen nation**
 - 5) **We must change our blood lineage to that of the Messiah**

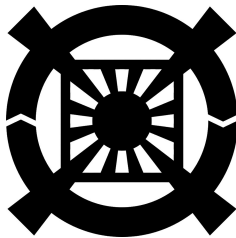


The Unification Church



Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ Actually, an argument could be made that the Unification Church was technically started years earlier, by the aged woman, Kim Seong-do
- ◆ Two of her disciples were Kim Baek-moon and Park Tae-seon, who practiced a special ritual called the *pikareum* (피가름) or “blood separation”
 - ◆ For instance, Park Tae-seon taught that he “received the precious blood of Jesus, the blood became his, and he was distributing the blood to others”
 - ◆ “Archangel Michael, fallen as the serpent, committed adultery with Eve and because of that serpent’s blood, and all Eve’s children including Cain carried the original sin. Therefore one can sanctify one’s blood by having intercourse with Park because his body is blessed and sanctified. And the one with separated blood can sanctify others by having intercourse with them. This doctrine of orgies was used to forge mental and spiritual unity among his followers”
—according to *History of Christianity in Korea*



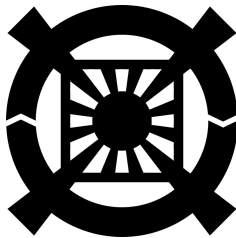
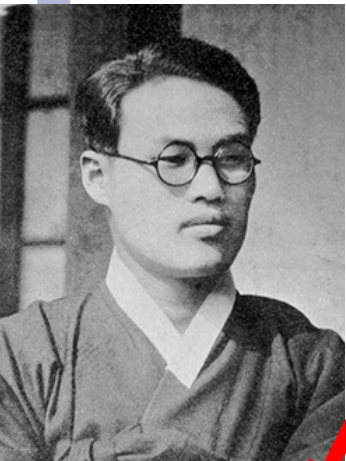
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 - ◆ For instance, Park Tae-seon taught that he “received the precious blood of Jesus, the blood became his, and he was distributing the blood to others”
- ◆ Others, such as Kim Baek-moon's disciple, Sun Myung Moon, took Kim Seong-do's teachings in the completely opposite direction of total sexual purity (NOTE: Sun Myung Moon would later write that he was *never* actually Kim Baek-moon's disciple—
“Some people say that Rev. Moon was Kim Baek-moon's disciple. What would I gain from that? He was a Christian, and according to his Christology, Jesus was God. He didn't know the fundamental Principle.”

—Sun Myung Moon's Life in His Own Words)



The Unification Church

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**

- ◆ **Who is their founder?**

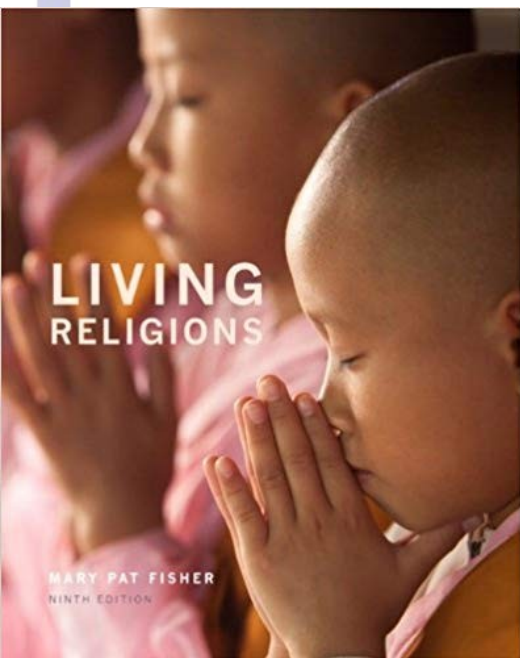
- ◆ **Rev. Sun Myung Moon**

Yong Myung Moon was born in Korea in 1920, and his family later converted to Christianity in 1930 and Yong himself experienced his own vision at Easter in 1935 that he would be a great evangelist (NOTE: He thus decided to change his name from “Yong” [용] meaning “Dragon” to “Sun” [선] meaning “Fish” or “Lamb” because he wanted to be associated with Christ rather than with the Devil)



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 - ◆ In 1940, Moon wrote the book, *The Divine Principle*, sharing God's “Unification Principle” with everyone (i.e.; as the textbook for the summer course that I taught on World Religions summarized well, “God created the universe in order to manifest true love, and the human family is considered the primary institution for the growth of love.”)



The Unification Church

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 - ◆ **In 1940, Moon wrote the book, *The Divine Principle*, sharing God's “Unification Principle” with everyone—but ultimately spent five years in a North Korean prison camp when he tried to share his faith**
 - ◆ **But Moon was undaunted, and—returning to South Korea—he began The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity in 1954 (i.e.; the Unification Church)**

EXPOSITION OF THE
DIVINE
PRINCIPLE



THE HOLY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION FOR THE
UNIFICATION OF WORLD CHRISTIANITY



The Unification Church

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 - ◆ **Given what was going on in Korea, why would you say that the concepts of unification and restoration were so poignant to a South Korean?**

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The Unification Church

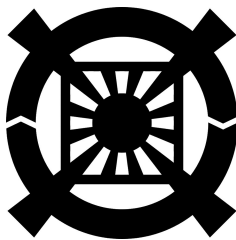
- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Do they have any authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to or instead of* the Bible?**
 - ◆ ***Divine Principle*, various revelations and sermons by Moon**
 - ◆ **“The *Divine Principle* expresses a truth which is universal. It inherits and builds upon the core truths which God revealed through the Jewish and Christian scriptures and encompasses the profound wisdom of the Orient.”**
 - from the *Divine Principle* translation committee
 - ◆ **At its core, the *Divine Principle* teaches that mankind has fallen because of sin, that modern sins like sexual infidelity and communism have eroded our spiritual foundation, that strong Christian marriages are essential to the strength of the Church, and that we all need to come back to spiritual unity with God**

(NOTE: If you find yourself nodding and feeling a spiritual affinity to any of that, remember that *none* of that means what *you* probably mean by those words —and you just proved how the cult pulls new people in...)

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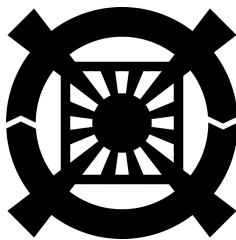
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- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Does the group view itself as the one *true* church, founded because the *true* gospel was lost in the early centuries of the church?**
 - ◆ **“Medieval feudal society buried Christianity alive. Even though the Reformation raised high the torch of new life, its flame could not turn back the sweeping tide of darkness... What is more, although Christian doctrine teaches that all humanity descended from the same parents, many citizens of Christian nations who profess this doctrine will not even sit together with their brothers and sisters of different skin colors. This illustrates the actual situation of today's Christianity, which has lost much of the power to put the words of Jesus into practice. It has become a house of lifeless rituals, a whitewashed tomb.”**
—*Divine Principle*

EXPOSITION OF THE
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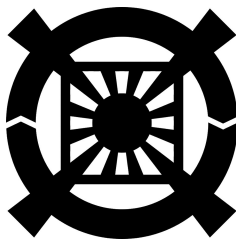


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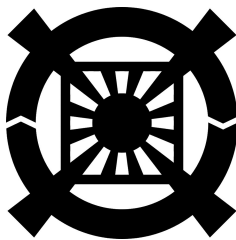
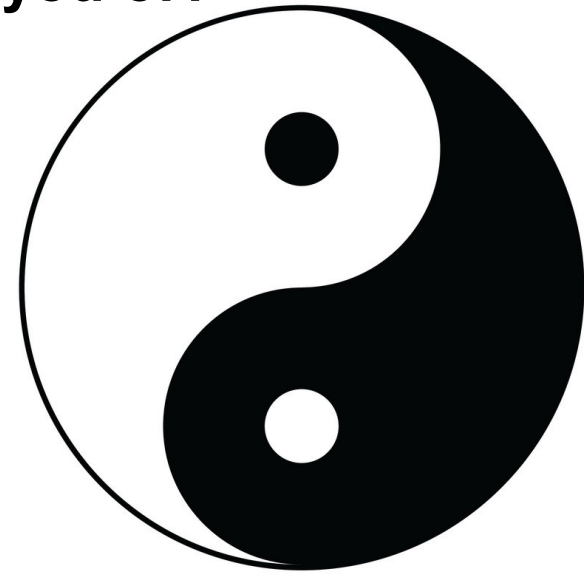
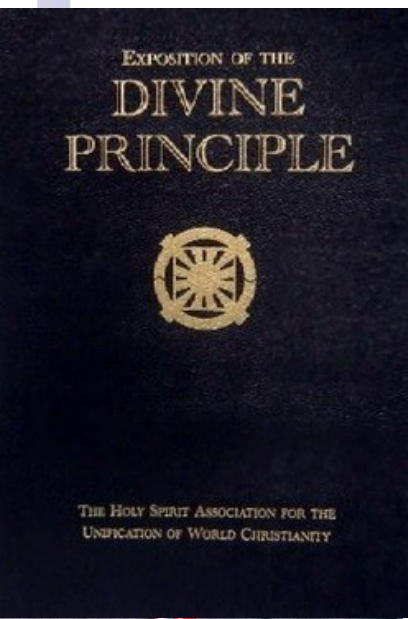
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—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ “God has revealed the principles of heaven through me, and He has given me the answers to the fundamental problems of humankind... I rebuilt the Christian foundation which was shaking at the roots.”
—Sun Myung Moon, speaking at the *Women's Federation For World Peace World Convention (1992)*



The Unification Church

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ◆ **“Everything in the creation exists only because of a reciprocal relationship between its dual characteristics of positivity and negativity. We naturally conclude that God, being the First Cause of all creation, also exists because of a reciprocal relationship between the dual characteristics of positivity and negativity...”**
 - Divine Principle*
 - ◆ **What does this remind you of?**



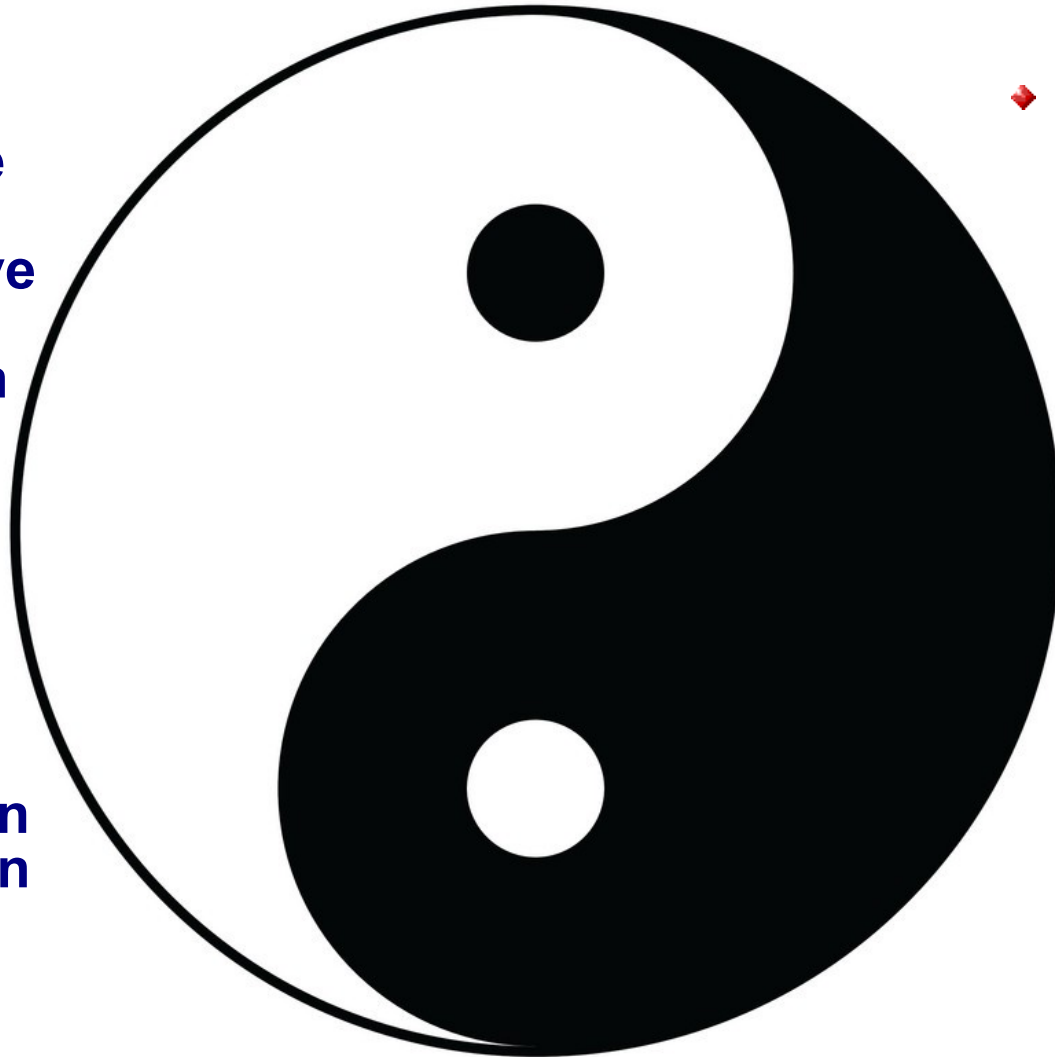
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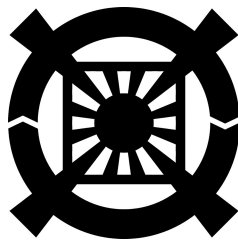
◆ **The Daoist concept of “yin and yang”**

- ◆ **陽 Yang**
- ◆ Masculine
 - ◆ Hard
 - ◆ Aggressive
 - ◆ Positive
 - ◆ Heat / Sun
 - ◆ Light
 - ◆ Heaven
 - ◆ Above
 - ◆ Awake
 - ◆ Active
 - ◆ Fast
 - ◆ Dry / Fire
 - ◆ Generation
 - ◆ Production
 - ◆ Cubs



- ◆ **陰 Yin**
- ◆ Feminine
 - ◆ Soft
 - ◆ Receptive
 - ◆ Negative
 - ◆ Cold / Moon
 - ◆ Darkness
 - ◆ Earth
 - ◆ Below
 - ◆ Asleep
 - ◆ Passive
 - ◆ Slow
 - ◆ Wet / Water
 - ◆ Growth
 - ◆ Conception
 - ◆ Cardinals

◆ **So why is there a “yin” dot in the “yang” area, and a “yang” dot in the “yin” area?**



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 - ◆ **“Everything in the creation exists only because of a reciprocal relationship between its dual characteristics of positivity and negativity. We naturally conclude that God, being the First Cause of all creation, also exists because of a reciprocal relationship between the dual characteristics of positivity and negativity... God's essential character and His essential form assume a reciprocal relationship with His "essential positivity" and "essential negativity." Therefore, God's essential positivity and essential negativity are the attributes of His essential character and essential form... We call the positivity and negativity of God "masculinity" and "femininity," respectively.”**

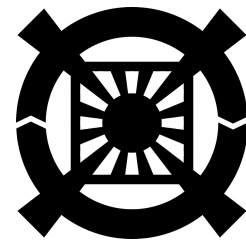
—*Divine Principle*

- ◆ **To prove his point, Moon cited Genesis 1:27—
“God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them”**

EXPOSITION OF THE
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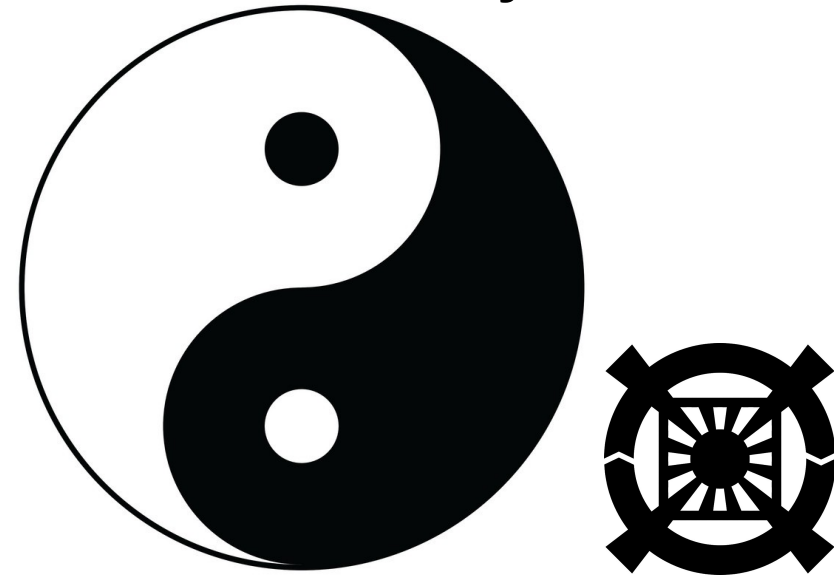
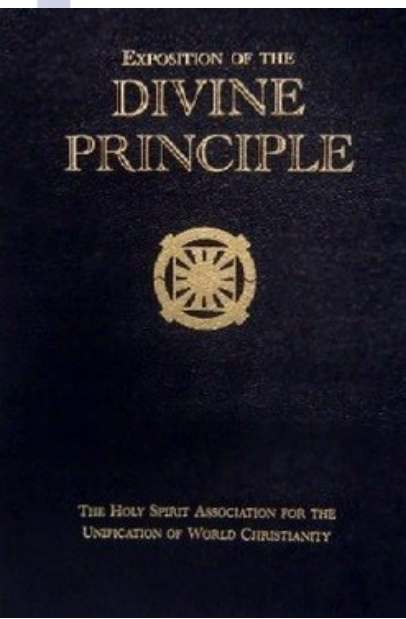


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—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ **“The Holy Spirit is a female Spirit. She also cleanses the sins of the people in order to restore them.”**
—*Divine Principle*
(because that's exactly the sort of cleansing, healing, conceiving sort of work that the yin has *always* represented...)



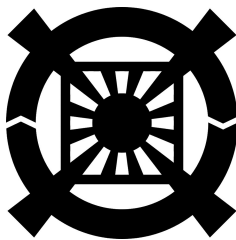
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 - ◆ **“There is no greater value than that of a person who has realized the ideal of creation. This is the value of Jesus, who surely attained the highest imaginable value. The conventional Christian belief in Jesus' divinity is well founded because, as a perfect human being, Jesus is totally one with God.”**
—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ **“In light of his attained deity [Jesus] may well be called God. Nevertheless, he can by no means be called God Himself.”**
—*Divine Principle*

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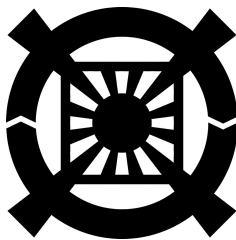
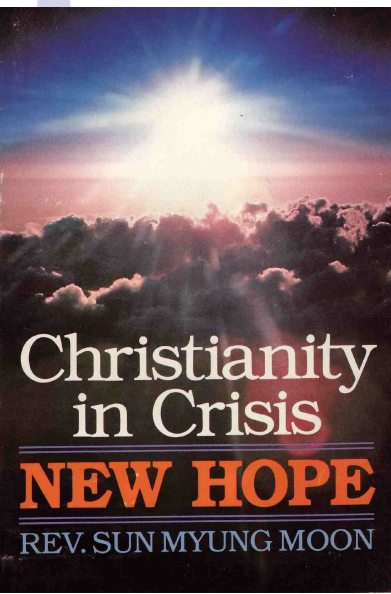


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 - ◆ “The Holy Spirit is a female Spirit. She also cleanses the sins of the people in order to restore them.”
—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ “There is no greater value than that of a person who has realized the ideal of creation...”
—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ **“Jesus came as the sinless Adam, or perfected Adam. His first mission was to restore his bride and form the first family of God. But he was crucified. Jesus Christ must come again to consummate the mission he left undone 2,000 years ago.”**
—*Christianity in Crisis*



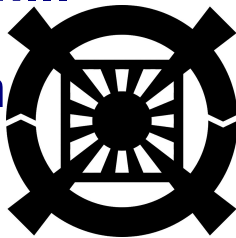
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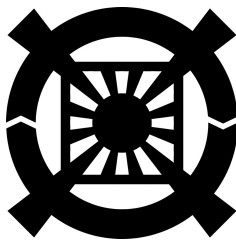
- ♦ And that was Christ's mistake—He was never supposed to be crucified, and that screwed up everything that God had planned for our restoration
- “Adam and Eve *should* have been the True Parents of humanity. A physical and spiritual ideal world (Kingdom of Heaven) *should* have stemmed from them. However, they fell by sexual sin. Heavenly Father worked with fallen man to make a foundation to send a Second Adam, Jesus. Jesus, the *Second Adam*, *should* have fulfilled what Adam did not. Jesus *should* have grown to maturity, married a Second Eve, had children, and established a Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and in Heaven. However, he was not received by those prepared to welcome him, resulting in Jesus going the way of the cross. The cross gave spiritual salvation, but could not solve the entire problem of sin. Since Jesus could not fulfill his entire mission, Heavenly Father had to rebuild the foundation for True Parents, by sending the *Third Adam*, Sun Myung Moon. Rev. Moon fulfilled the mission of True Parents that Adam and Jesus had *failed* to fulfill. By uniting with Rev. and Mrs. Moon, humanity can fulfill their purpose of creation and enter the Kingdom of Heaven both spiritually and physically.”

—from tparents.org



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 - ◆ **“Jesus stands in the position of a son to the Lord of the Second Advent, and calls him 'Father'.”**
 - The Master Speaks on the Lord of the Second Advent (1965)*
 - ◆ **“God chose me to be the Messiah, and during this time He has been performing His work of salvation. I have fulfilled my mission as the Lord of the Second Advent, Savior and the True Parent... the king of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.”**
 - Today's World (September 1992)*

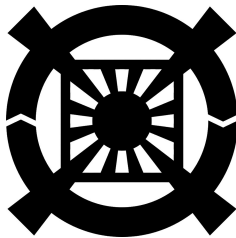


The Unification Church



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ **Wackily enough, Moon and his wife were physically crowned King and Queen of the Kingdom of Heaven in Washington, D.C., in 2004**
- ♦ **According to the *Washington Post*,**
 - ♦ **“More than a dozen lawmakers attended a congressional reception this year honoring the Rev. Sun Myung Moon in which Moon declared himself the Messiah... At the March 23 ceremony in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rep. Danny K. Davis (D) wore white gloves and carried a pillow holding an ornate crown that was placed on Moon's head...”**
 - ♦ **Moon appreciated the expression of adulation, saying in his speech,**
 - ♦ **“Emperors, kings and presidents who enjoyed opulence and power on earth, and even journalists who had worldwide fame, have now placed themselves at the forefront of the column of the true love revolution... They have declared to all Heaven and Earth that Reverend Sun Myung Moon is none other than humanity's Savior, Messiah, Returning Lord and True Parent.”**

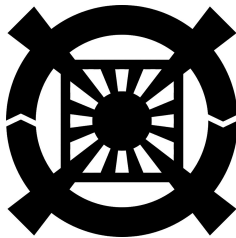


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At the March 23 ceremony in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rep. Danny K. Davis (D) wore white gloves and carried a pillow holding an ornate crown that was placed on Moon's head...”
- ♦ **For the record, most of those leaders in attendance later admitted that they had no idea who Moon was (they just went to the event because it was a presented as a big Washington photo op sponsored by the *Washington Times* —which is one of the national newspapers owned by the Unification Church)**



The Unification Church

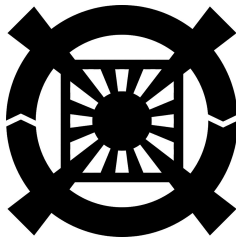


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- ❖ Wackily enough, Moon and his wife were physically crowned King and Queen of the Kingdom of Heaven in Washington, D.C., in 2004
- ❖ The cult actually owns and operates *several* entities that don't openly acknowledge their ownership—
 - ❖ The International Educational Foundation
 - ❖ The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles
 - ❖ The Women's Federation for World Peace
 - ❖ The International Coalition for Religious Freedom
 - ❖ American Clergy Leadership Conference
 - ❖ The Assembly of the World's Religions
 - ❖ The New York City Symphony
 - ❖ The Washington Institute for Values in Public Policy
 - ❖ The Washington Times
 - ❖ New World Communications
 - (which owns United Press International)
 - ❖ True World Foods
 - (which distributes most of America's sushi)
- ❖ Would you have assumed that these were all “fronts” for the Unification Church?



The Washington Times



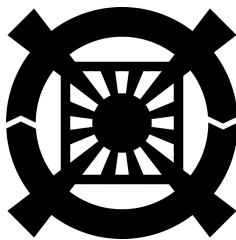
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 - ◆ **“By killing one man, Jesus, the Jewish people had to suffer for 2000 years. Countless numbers of people have been slaughtered. During the Second World War, 6 million people were slaughtered to cleanse all the sins of the Jewish people from the time of Jesus.”**
 - The Master Speaks (February 14, 1974)*
 - ◆ **“Because the Jewish people disbelieved Jesus and delivered him up for crucifixion, his body was invaded by Satan, and he was killed. Therefore, even when Christians believe in and become one body with Jesus, whose body was invaded by Satan, their bodies still remain subject to Satan’s invasion...”**
 - Divine Principle*

EXPOSITION OF THE
DIVINE
PRINCIPLE



THE HOLY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION FOR THE
UNIFICATION OF WORLD CHRISTIANITY



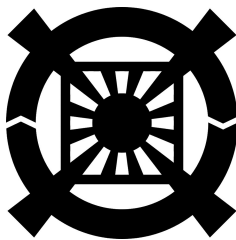
The Unification Church

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 - ◆ **“Redemption through the cross cannot completely liquidate our original sin, and... it leaves man's original nature not yet perfectly restored. Jesus promised that the Lord would come, because Jesus knew he could not fulfill the purpose of his advent as the Messiah through redemption on the cross.”**
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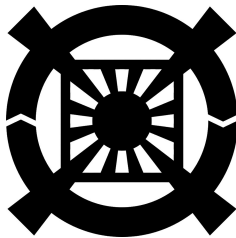


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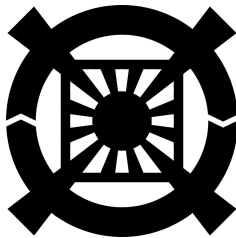
Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ In 2003, the American Clergy Leadership Conference launched a national “Take Down the Cross” initiative
 - ◆ Multiple Christian congregations agreed with the Unification Church-founded group that the cross was a reminder of pain and suffering (instead of His glory) that needlessly divides people of different faiths
 - ◆ So Archbishop Dr. Angel M. Torres of New York's Pentecostal Family Center took down their cross as part of their re-enactment of Jesus' crucifixion
 - ◆ Bishop C. Phillip Johnson and members of the New Prospect Family Praise and Worship Center in Washington, D.C., did as well
 - ◆ As did Rev. John Kingara at the Worldwide Greater Mission Church in Worcester, MA
 - ◆ As did several other Christian churches, who even participated in burial services for their crosses draped in a burial shroud made from the flag of the American Clergy Leadership Conference
 - ◆ In the place of the cross, the ACLC suggested churches hang either their own, neutral symbol or a golden crown to commemorate Christ as the Lord of the Second Advent



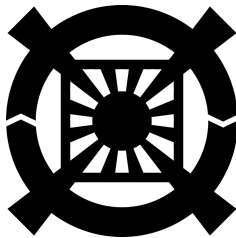
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—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ **“When someone has lost his original position or state, he must make some condition to be restored to it. The making of such conditions of restitution is called indemnity... God's work to restore people to their true, unfallen state by having them fulfill indemnity conditions is called the providence of restoration through indemnity.”**
—*Divine Principle*



The Unification Church

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—*Divine Principle*
 - ◆ **“Through our accepting the True Parents, obeying them and following them, our original sin will be eliminated and we will eventually become perfect.”**
—*Declaration of Unification Theological Affirmations (DUTA)*
 - ◆ **“Marriage is the most important means of establishing God's kingdom on earth.”**
—*Christianity in Crisis*



The Unification Church



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ See, Sun Myung Moon and his wife constitute the “True Parents”—the fleshly incarnation of God in His perfect, male-and-female, yang-and-yin form—clearly more perfect than Jesus ever was, since He never got married, and wrongly remained alone
- ♦ Moon thus commanded his followers to forever abandon their “false” families here on Earth, get married, and start new families in the Unification Church, following the example of their *True Parents* (Please ignore the fact that Moon's *first* wife had divorced him back in 1957 because she thought he was becoming a nut)



The Unification Church



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(NOTE: These marriages were guaranteed to last, since Moon himself would pick out your spouse for you)

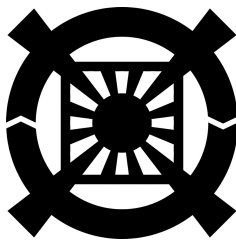


The Unification Church



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 - ◆ **Moon thus commanded his followers to forever abandon their “false” families here on Earth**
 - ◆ **Since the Moons were the “True Parents” to us all, then it would be an act of cruelty to send their “True Family” members back to broken, imperfect families—therefore, members of the church were no longer allowed to have any contact with their birth families (which made total sense to young converts to the church, after they'd had a few weekend retreats where they never got any sleep, rarely got any food, and were “love bombed” by other church members—and yes, those are all classic “brain washing” techniques)**

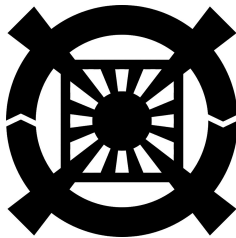
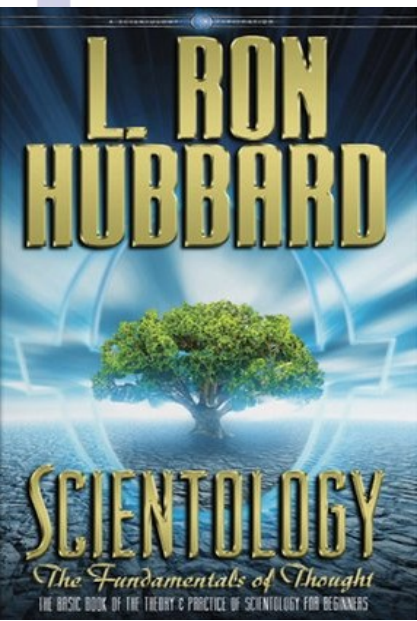


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 - ♦ Since the Moons were the “True Parents” to us all, then it would be an act of cruelty to send their “True Family” members back to broken, imperfect families—therefore, church members were no longer allowed to have any contact with their birth families
 - ♦ Not surprisingly, several families began hiring detectives to find and even “kidnap” their children back—even taking them to “de-programmers” to try to undo the cult's work in them
 - ♦ Remember—lots of “brainwashing” cults popped up across America at this time, like Scientology in 1952 and in the 1960s, David Berg's “Children of God” and the “Hare Krishna” movement... etc.
 - ♦ But as of 1991, members are now encouraged to talk with their “old” families and evangelize them



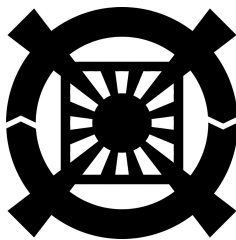
The Unification Church

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?**
 - ◆ **“Christ had to come again to fulfill perfectly the will of God, because God's predestination to restore the Kingdom of Heaven on earth was absolute and unchangeable.”**
 - Divine Principle*
(i.e.; what Adam screwed up, and *Jesus Christ* fumbled the ball in trying to fix, *another Christ* would have to come to finally make right)

EXPOSITION OF THE
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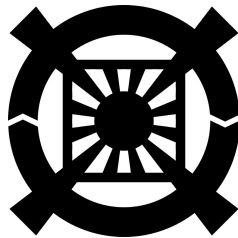


THE HOLY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION FOR THE
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The Unification Church

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—*Divine Principle*
 - ▶ **“God's will that all people be restored to Him is predestined absolutely, and He has elected all people to salvation, but He has also given man part of the responsibility (to be accomplished through man's free will) for the accomplishment of both His original will and His will for the accomplishment of restoration.”**
—*Declaration of Unification Theological Affirmations (DUTA)* (i.e.; there's no such thing as an “eternal Hell” or “eternal damnation”—**everyone** will ultimately be restored to God—but we still have a personal responsibility to keep up our end of the saving work, or else *others* will have to do *more* than their share of the work)



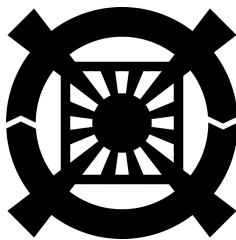
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 - ◆ “God's will that all people be restored to Him is predestined absolutely, and He has elected all people to salvation...”
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 - ◆ “Man, upon his death, after his life in the visible world, goes to the invisible world in a spiritual body, having taken off his 'clothes of flesh' (Job 10:11), and lives there forever.”
—*Divine Principle*
(i.e.; we join—still as individuals—into a cosmic *gestalt*, a spiritual consciousness with all things—which sounds an awful lot like what a lot of Asian religions believe...)

EXPOSITION OF THE
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Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ As Moon explains—

- ◆ “From the beginning, man's body was created to turn to dust after it ages and dies. Therefore, the human body, once it is dissolved into dust, cannot be resurrected to its original state. It is not necessary for the spirit man to resume his flesh, when there is a vast spirit world where he is supposed to go and live forever.”

—*Divine Principle*

(“As we well know through the Bible, Jesus after the resurrection was not the same Jesus who had lived with his disciples before his crucifixion. He was no longer a man seen through physical eyes...”

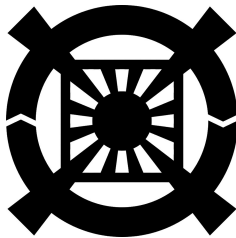
—*Divine Principle*)

- ◆ Does anything in Scripture speak to this?
 - ◆ Read John 2:19-21
 - ◆ Read John 20:24-28
 - ◆ Read Philippians 3:21

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—*Divine Principle*

“The process of resurrection is the process of restoration to spiritual life and spiritual maturity, ultimately uniting man with God; it is passing from spiritual death into spiritual life. This is accomplished in part by man's effort (through prayer, good deeds, etc.) with the help of the saints in the spiritual world, and completed by God's activity of bringing man to rebirth through Christ (the Messiah).”

—*DUTA*



The Unification Church



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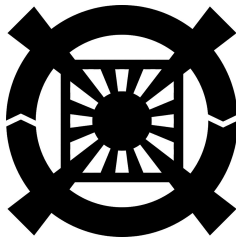
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—*Divine Principle*

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- ◆ **To sum up...**
 - ◆ **Moon himself was convicted of tax evasion in 1982, and died in 2012—and yet, his cult still thrives and grows, even today**
 - ◆ **As Moon said of his own legacy, “What would have happened if Christianity and Korea had welcomed me? I could have absorbed Protestant America over the course of seven years. And if I had begun working on the world level after the seven-year course finished in 1952, I would have mobilized all the world's statesmen by the time I was forty years old, leading them in one direction, toward the goal of making the kingdom of heaven on earth. That was the original providential plan. Christianity has made a unified, global territory after four thousand years of Judeo-Christian history. If Christianity had followed me, a unified physical and spiritual world would have come about...”**

—Sun Myung Moon's Life in His Own Words

- ◆ **So how can we try to minister to people in the Unification Church?**

